

Minnesota Department of Health

Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Possible Amendment to Rules Governing the Cancer Surveillance System, *Minnesota Rules*, Chapter 4606; Revisor's ID Number RD4983

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) requests comments on its possible amendments to rules governing the Cancer Surveillance System. This rulemaking process will update the Cancer Registry Rules to address 2023 legislative changes, enable Minnesota to provide required federal grant information, update the rules to reflect changes in clinical practice, enable the department to meet statutory requirements, and address technological and other technical changes.

MDH is considering the following:

- Aligning the rules to correspond with 2023 statutory changes by replacing the term “consent” to “notify” in Minn. Rules, part 4606.3306, subp. 1.
- Replacing the definition of “physician” with “health care practitioner” to include Physician Assistant (PA) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). In 2014, these two groups of practitioners had their scope of practice expanded.
- Requiring every cancer that is diagnosed or treated in Minnesota, including those in nonresidents, to be reported to the commissioner of health.
- Clarifying the professional qualifications required for those who are eligible to submit research requests to include PAs and APRNs.
- Technical name changes to heading parts.
- Requiring laboratories with more than a certain number of reports to report electronically.
- Requiring that hospitals that diagnose or treat more than a certain number of reportable cancer cases maintain a cancer registry.
- Clarifying how hospitals without a cancer registry can submit electronic uniform billing files and/or medical record disease indices containing cancer diagnoses to the commissioner of health to ensure that non-microscopically confirmed cancers are reported as required by current law.
- Other cancer registry issues that may come up, but only as we have time.

Persons Affected. The proposed amendment to the rules would likely affect the following groups and individuals:

- Physicians, Other health care providers who diagnose cancers (such as dentists, PAs, APRNs), hospitals, pathology laboratories, and those diagnosed with cancer in Minnesota.

Statutory Authority. Minnesota Statutes, section 144.672 authorizes the Department of Health to adopt rules to administer a cancer reporting system, collect information, and distribute data on cancer incidence.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing [or orally] until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. The Department will not publish a notice of intent to adopt the rules until more than 60 days have elapsed from the date of this request for comments.

This public comment opportunity is associated with the development of possible rules. Comments received in response to this notice will not be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the Administrative Law Judge if and when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The Department is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submit comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you must resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Rules Drafts. The Department has not yet prepared a draft of the possible rules' amendment.

Agency Contact Person. Direct your written or oral comments or questions, and requests for more information on these possible rule changes to Patricia Segal Freeman, P.O. Box 64975. St. Paul, MN 55164-00975, phone: (651) 201-5900, 1 (877) 353-6277; fax: (800) 293-6013; and email: cancerregistryrules.mdh@state.mn.us; MDH will also post information on the Department's website at Minnesota Cancer Reporting System Rulemaking Revisions - MN Dept. of Health (health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/cancerrule/index.html)

Alternative Format. Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request or if you need an accommodation to make this hearing accessible, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

NOTE: Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge if and when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The agency is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submitted comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Date

Deputy Commissioner