



# CRStar Insights

## NAACCR Recommended Abbreviations for Recording Text

The purpose of this Insight is to address using abbreviations in text and how using the proper abbreviations can impact and aid in selecting text in populations for reports in CRStar. Abstractors utilize abbreviations when recording text in the abstract to save time. This is an accepted practice by the standard setters. However, abbreviations can vary between different facilities and even within different departments in the same facility.

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NAACCR developed a listing of recommended abbreviations and symbols for Cancer Registrars to be used when abstracting, reporting, and submitting data. This list can be found in the NAACCR Data Dictionary: Appendix G. <http://datadictionary.naacccr.org/default.aspx?c=17&Version=21>

This list consists of the most commonly used abbreviations and symbols. The list does not contain abbreviations for chemotherapy drugs and regimens. Please refer to the SEER\*Rx database for those abbreviations. Note: The SEER\*Rx database is now available in two formats. The first format is the downloadable version that is either downloaded to the computer or available in ERS using the web links feature. According to SEER, this version may be phased out in the future. The second and newest version is a web-based version and can be accessed from the SEER website at <https://seer.cancer.gov/seertools/seerrx/>

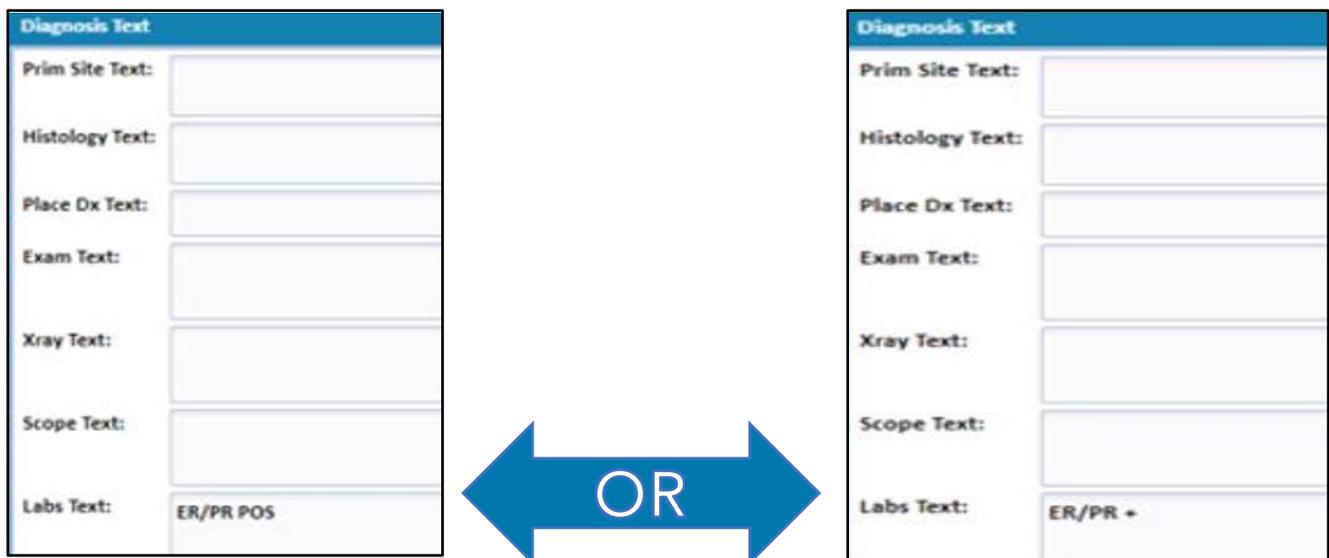
There are several advantages in using the web version. These are taken from the SEER website: Updates are automatic: users do not have to install anything to access the latest revisions. Allows access from any computer or device with an Internet connection. Eliminates problems for users who do not have permission to install software on their work computers.

The abbreviations are listed in upper case. However, upper or lower case can be used. Always refer to the state central registry requirements on using upper or lower case when abstracting. In CRStar, populations of cases can be selected based on complete or partial words in any of the text fields and various reports can be run on these populations. Therefore, it is very important that all abstractors in the facility use the same abbreviations. Please see page 3 on selecting text in populations for reporting.

Some recommended abbreviations have more than one accepted abbreviation - some abbreviations have one in text as well as a symbol. For example, below uses the term "positive". There are two acceptable NAACCR abbreviations, POS and (+).

For consistency in selecting cases in populations, for example, that are ER/PR “positive”, ensure that all abstractors are using the same abbreviation. Below is an example of using the abbreviation POS and selecting breast cases for a given year that have ER/PR POS and ER/PR + recorded in the Lab Text field. The example below shows how to select both of the text fields. Using the comma “,” no space between the different text will select both of the text. This would not have been necessary if all the abstractors were consistent in the text field.

Using the asterisks (\*\*) is an easy way to search for specific words or phrases in text fields. By asking for a word, partial word or abbreviation enclosed in asterisks, the system will do a search based on the word. When selecting text from any text fields, the asterisks are wild cards and may be used. For example, Item #855 is used to select text remarks for the Lab text field. This will search for any text containing ER/PR POS anywhere it may be located within the text field. Below are examples of the use of asterisks (\*) in reports. For more information, refer to the CRStar User Manual.



**\*Left asterisk** before the number will give all values ending with a specific value, i.e.

**\*2020** would give all dates ending with **2020**.

**\*Right asterisk** after the number will give all values beginning with a specific value, i.e.

**SMITH\*** will search for all last names **SMITH**.

**\*\* Both asterisks** surround the value, i.e. **\*ER/PR POS\***

As seen in the report example below, all entries in the Lab Text field contain the text requested in the population, ER/PR POS as well as ER/PR +. POSITIVE, since the word positive contains the requested root POS.

**Select a Population**

Population Label: 2020 BREAST CASES ER PR POSITIVE  
 New Label:

Hospitals: 01 ERS Hospital Systems  
 Requested By: Sherri Chico-Rowell Request Date: 11/30/2020

Analytic Cases Only  
 Complete Cases Only

**Abstract/Suspense Cases**  
 Abstract Cases Only  
 Suspense Cases Only  
 All Cases

Site	Site Description
1 50	BREAST
2	
3	

**Selection Criteria**

Item Nbr	Item Description	Relation	Data Values	Logic
1	150 Date of Diagnosis	=	*2020	And
2	855 Labs Text	=	*ER/PR POS*,*ER/PR +*	And
3				
4				
5				

Start Time: 2:18:23 PM End Time: 2:18:24 PM Records Selected: 0

Select Delete Label Edit Selection New Exit

	A	B	C	D	E
	Accession Nbr	Date of Diagnosis	Topography Code	Histology	Labs Text
2	02201012795	03/12/2010	CS04	85002	ER/PR POSITIVE NO HER-2/NEU
3	02201010629	05/07/2010	CS08	85002	ER/PR POS
4	02201011533	08/02/2010	CS09	85002	ER/PR +
5	02201011611	08/03/2010	CS08	85233	ER/PR POS, HER 2 NEG BY CISH
6	02201011530	08/05/2010	CS04	85203	ER/PR POS, HER 2 NEG BY CISH
7	01201000498	09/13/2010	CS09	85002	9/13/10: ER/PR POS
8	02201012101	09/14/2010	CS04	85002	ER/PR POSITIVE, HER-2/NEU NOT DONE
9	02201012077	09/27/2010	CS04	85003	ER/PR POSITIVE, HER-2/NEU NEG BY CISH- RATIO 1.09
10	02201012075	10/08/2010	CS05	85003	HER-2/NEU NEG PER CISH. ER/PR POSITIVE.
11	02201012074	10/08/2010	CS03	85002	ER/PR POSITIVE PER ACIS. 10/20/10: BRCA1 AND BRCA2 NEG
12	02201012078	10/16/2010	CS01	85002	ER/PR POSITIVE. NO HER-2/NEU DONE
13	02201012699	11/29/2010	CS04	85003	HER-2/NEU NEG PER CISH- RATIO 1.06. ER/PR POSITIVE
14	02200611335	12/01/2010	CS09	85043	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEG PER CISH. RATIO 1.09
15	02201012243	12/02/2010	CS05	85003	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEG PER CISH- RATIO 1.30
16	02201012701	12/02/2010	CS04	85003	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEGATIVE PER CISH- RATIO 1.11. ONCOTYPE SC
17	02300210363	12/07/2010	CS03	85003	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEG BY CISH. RATIO 1.15
18	02199710747	12/08/2010	CS04	85002	ER/PR POSITIVE
19	02200510677	12/14/2010	CS01	85233	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEGATIVE PER CISH- RATIO 1.35
20	02201110340	12/14/2010	CS04	85223	ER/PR POSITIVE. HER-2/NEU NEG PER C15- RATIO 0.86

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