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Combining Information on Health Services Variables from Multiple Sources

Measures of certain services variables (e.g., hospice use) are important quality indicators of cancer care. The Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Surveillance (CanCORS) study collected these variables from several sources including patient survey, medical records abstraction, cancer registry databases, and Medicare claims data. The sample coverages of these sources are different, and the reporting might be subject to error. We first estimate the patterns of misreporting assuming one source (e.g., claims) is a gold standard. The misreported outcome in other sources can therefore be corrected/imputed using a statistical model. Valid analysis can then be based on multiply imputed data.