

## Beating the Clock on Timeliness

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As a member of the original task force, I was asked to come up with the formula for calculating the number of months. We chose what we considered was the most lenient formula.

The formula is relatively simple: Take the date the case was received by the Registry (within a file) and subtract the number of months from the Date First Contact (formerly known as the Date First Admission). The number of months is calculated regardless of the day of the month. Refer to Figure 1 for examples.

Figure 1.

Date First Contact	Date Received	Timeliness Months	Timeliness Category
01/01/2022	07/01/2022	6	On Time
01/01/2022	07/31/2022	6	On Time
01/31/2022	07/01/2022	6	On Time
01/31/2022	07/31/2022	6	On Time
01/01/2022	08/31/2022	7	Delinquent
01/31/2022	08/01/2022	7	Delinquent
01/01/2022	01/31/2022	12	Delinquent
01/31/2022	01/01/2022	12	Delinquent
01/01/2022	02/28/2023	13	Out of Compliance
01/31/2022	02/01/2023	13	Out of Compliance

Notice that waiting one day could make a difference; especially if the next day is the beginning of a new month. To put it in another way: if you wait until the beginning of the month to send your file then every case in the file will have an additional timeliness month. For the Cancer Registry of Greater

California, the Date Received is the date you uploaded the file onto the CRGC GoAnywhere Secure Server.

Waiting longer than a month between file submissions hurts your timeliness. The CRGC strongly recommends that larger hospitals submit at least bimonthly. Submitting frequently can only help your timeliness.