SEER PROGRAM
CODING AND STAGING MANUAL 2010

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS BRANCH

SURVEILLANCE RESEARCH PROGRAM

DIVISION OF CANCER CONTROL AND POPULATION SCIENCES

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SEER PROGRAM
CODING AND STAGING MANUAL 2010

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PREFACE TO THE 2010 SEER PROGRAM CODING AND STAGING MANUAL

The *2010 Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program Coding and Staging Manual* is effective for cases diagnosed January 1, 2010, and forward. Previous editions of this manual are available on the SEER website, CD, or may be ordered through the SEER website. The *2010 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual* includes all errata and revisions that apply to cases diagnosed January 1, 2010 and forward.

The 2010 changes and additions include

- New instructions for transmitting dates
- New data items
  - Date of Birth Flag
  - Date of Diagnosis Flag
  - Date of Multiple Tumors Flag
  - Date of Conclusive Diagnosis Flag
  - Date Therapy Initiated Flag
  - Date of Last Followup or Death Flag
  - Treatment Status
- Data item removed from SEER Manual
  - Casefinding Source

New data items, changes in codes, and changes in code definitions were approved by the Uniform Data Standards Committee of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

This manual includes data item descriptions, codes, and coding instructions for cases diagnosed January 1, 2010, and forward.

Data items that are not required for 2010 diagnoses but were collected in years prior to 2010 must be transmitted to SEER as blanks for 2010 and subsequent years. Descriptions of historic data items, allowable codes, and coding rules can be found in historic coding manuals.

Technical questions may be emailed to askseerctr@imsweb.com. SEER regions may also submit technical questions to NCI SEER using the web-based SINQ system at http://seer.cancer.gov/seerinquiry/. The general questions and answers from askseerctr@imsweb.com and from the SINQ system will be incorporated into the next edition of the SEER manual.

This manual may be downloaded in electronic format from the SEER website http://seer.cancer.gov/.

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Collection and Storage of Date Fields

Dates may be collected and stored in any format, including the traditional format, (month, day, year [MMDDYYYY]), or the new date format, (year, month, day [YYYYMMDD]). The new format must be used for transmission (see below). See the 2010 NAACCR Implementation Guidelines and Recommendations for converting dates collected and stored in the traditional format to the new format and vice versa, and for deriving the date flags from information collected in the traditional format.

Transmission Instructions for Date Fields

As of January 1, 2010, date fields must be transmitted in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). The new transmission requirements are intended to improve the interoperability, or communication, of cancer registry data with other electronic record systems. Date fields are fixed-length and left-justified. Replace any missing component with spaces. If there are no known date components, the date field will be completely blank. For example:

- YYYYMMDD – when complete date is known and valid
- YYYYMM – when year and month are known and valid, and day is unknown
- YYYY – when year is known and valid, and month and day are unknown
- Blank – when no known date applies

Date flags associated with each date field have been added as new data items in 2010. The date flags are used when all eight places of a date field are blank. The flags explain why the field is blank. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Note: Date of Diagnosis cannot be entirely blank. See the specific coding instructions for each date field.

Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by NCI SEER. The corresponding date flag is not affected (it will remain blank).

SEER Site-Specific Factors 1 - 6

Six new data items have been set aside as place holders. These data items are not in use and must be left blank.

NAACCR Item #	Item Name	Codes
3700	SEER Site-Specific Fact 1	Blank
3702	SEER Site-Specific Fact 2	Blank
3704	SEER Site-Specific Fact 3	Blank
3706	SEER Site-Specific Fact 4	Blank
3708	SEER Site-Specific Fact 5	Blank
3710	SEER Site-Specific Fact 6	Blank

INTRODUCTION
SEER PROGRAM

Two programs, the End Results Group and the Third National Cancer Survey, were predecessors of the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

SEER publishes the 2010 *SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual* to provide instructions and descriptions that are detailed enough to promote consistent abstracting and coding.

SEER CODING AND STAGING MANUAL CONTENTS

The *2010 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual* explains the format and the definitions of the data items required by SEER.

For all cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2010, the instructions and codes in this manual take precedence over all previous instructions and codes.

Documentation and codes for historical data items can be found in earlier versions of the SEER Program Code Manual. Earlier versions are available on CD and on the SEER website.

This coding manual does not prevent SEER contract registries or other registries that follow SEER rules from collecting additional data items useful for those regions.

REPORTABILITY

DATES OF DIAGNOSIS/RESIDENCY

SEER registries are required to collect data on persons who are diagnosed with cancer and who, at the time of diagnosis, are **residents** of the geographic area covered by the SEER registry. Cases diagnosed on or after January 1, **1973** are reportable to SEER. Registries that joined the SEER Program after 1973 have different reporting start dates specified in their contracts.

REPORTABLE DIAGNOSES

1. **In Situ and Malignant/Invasive Histologies**

   a. All histologies with a **behavior code** of **/2 or /3** in the International *Classification of Diseases for Oncology,* Third Edition (ICD-O-3).
   Note: AIN III of the anus or anal canal (C210-C211), VAIN III, and VIN III are reportable.

   b. ***Exceptions:*** In situ and malignant/invasive histologies **not required** by SEER

      i. **Skin** primary (C440-C449) with any of the following histologies
      Malignant neoplasm (8000-8005)
      Epithelial carcinoma (8010-8046)
      Papillary and squamous cell carcinoma (8050-8084)
      Basal cell carcinoma (8090-8110)
      AIN III (8077) arising in perianal skin (C445)

      Note: If the registry collects basal or squamous cell carcinoma of **skin** sites C440-C449, sequence them in the 60-99 range and do not report them to SEER

ii. Carcinoma **in situ** of **cervix** (/2) or cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (**CIN III**) of the cervix (C530-C539)

Note: Collection **stopped** effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/1996 and later except as required in individual contracts

iii. Prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (**PIN III**) of the prostate (C619)

Note: Collection **stopped** effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2001 and later

2. Benign/Non-Malignant Histologies

a. **Pilocytic/Juvenile astrocytomas** are reportable; code the histology and behavior as 9421/3

b. **Benign** and **borderline** primary **intracranial** and **CNS** tumors with a behavior code of /0 or /1 in ICD-O-3 are collected for the following sites, **effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004** and later. See the table below for required sites.

Required Sites for Benign and Borderline Primary Intracranial and Central Nervous System Tumors

General Term	Specific Sites	ICD-O-3 Topography Code
Meninges	Cerebral meninges	C700
	Spinal meninges	C701
	Meninges, NOS	C709
Brain	Cerebrum	C710
	Frontal lobe	C711
	Temporal lobe	C712
	Parietal lobe	C713
	Occipital lobe	C714
	Ventricle, NOS	C715
	Cerebellum, NOS	C716
	Brain stem	C717
	Overlapping lesion of brain	C718
	Brain, NOS	C719
Spinal cord, cranial nerves, and other parts of the central nervous system	Spinal cord	C720
	Cauda equina	C721
	Olfactory nerve	C722
	Optic nerve	C723
	Acoustic nerve	C724
	Cranial nerve, NOS	C725
	Overlapping lesion of brain and central nervous system	C728
	Nervous system, NOS	C729
Pituitary, craniopharyngeal duct and pineal gland	Pituitary gland	C751
	Craniopharyngeal duct	C752
	Pineal gland	C753

Note: Benign and borderline tumors of the cranial bones (C410) are **not reportable**.

DIAGNOSIS PRIOR TO BIRTH

SEER reportability requirements apply to diagnoses made in utero. Diagnoses made in utero are reportable **only when the pregnancy results in a live birth**. In the absence of documentation of stillbirth, abortion or fetal death, assume there was a live birth and report the case.

Disease Regression

When a reportable diagnosis is confirmed prior to birth and disease is not evident at birth due to regression, accession the case based on the pre-birth diagnosis.

REPORTABILITY EXAMPLES

Reportable

Example 1: Path report says "Atypical fibroxanthoma (superficial malignant fibrous histiocytoma)." The case is reportable because the information in parentheses provides more detail and confirms a reportable malignancy.

Example 2: Positive histology from needle aspiration/biopsy followed by negative resection. This case is reportable based on positive needle biopsy.

Example 3: Biopsy-proven squamous cell carcinoma of the nipple with a subsequent areolar resection showing foreign body granulomatous reaction to suture material and no evidence of residual malignancy in the nipple epidermis. This case is reportable. The fact that no residual malignancy was found in the later specimen does not disprove the malignancy diagnosed by the biopsy.

Example 4: Final diagnosis from dermatopathologist: "ulcerated histologically malignant spindle cell neoplasm, consistent with atypical fibroxanthoma. Note: An exhaustive immunohistochemical work-up shows no melanocytic, epithelial or vascular differentiation. Atypical fibroxanthoma is a superficial form of a malignant fibrous histiocytoma." This case is reportable. The pathologist has the final say on behavior for a particular case. In this case, the pathologist states that this tumor is malignant.

Example 5: "Aggressive adult granulosa cell tumor with one of two lymph nodes positive for malignant metastatic granulosa cell tumor." This case is reportable because malignant granulosa cell tumor is reportable. The lymph node metastases prove malignancy.

Example 6: Carcinoid of the appendix found on appendectomy. Patient returns later with metastases in regional lymph nodes. This case is reportable because of the metastatic lymph nodes. Code the diagnosis date to the date of the appendectomy and the first course of treatment date to the appendectomy date.

Example 7: Ovarian mucinous borderline tumor with foci of intraepithelial carcinoma. This case is reportable because there are foci of intraepithelial carcinoma (carcinoma in situ).

Example 8: "Squamous cell carcinoma of the anus, NOS." Squamous cell carcinoma of the anus is reportable unless the primary site is confirmed to be the skin of anus.

Not Reportable

Example 1: Left thyroid lobectomy shows microfollicular neoplasm with evidence of minimal invasion. Micro portion of path report states "The capsular contour is focally distorted by a finger of the microfollicular nodule which appears to penetrate into the adjacent capsular and thyroid tissue." Do not report this case based on the information provided. There is no definitive statement of malignancy. Search for additional information in the record. Contact the pathologist or the treating physician.

Example 2: Sclerosing hemangioma of the lung with multiple regional lymph nodes involved with sclerosing hemangioma. This case is not reportable. The lymph node involvement is non-malignant. According to the WHO Classification of Lung Tumours, sclerosing hemangioma "behaves in a clinically benign fashion...Reported cases with hilar or mediastinal lymph node involvement do not have a worse prognosis."

Example 3: Carcinoid of the appendix that extends into mesoappendiceal adipose tissue. This case is not reportable. Extension does not make a carcinoid of the appendix reportable. Benign and borderline tumors can and do extend into surrounding tissue.

Example 4: Carcinoid tumorlets are not reportable.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLID TUMORS

Note: For hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms, see the Reportability Instructions in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual and the Hematopoietic Database.*

CASES DIAGNOSED CLINICALLY ARE REPORTABLE

In the absence of a histologic or cytologic confirmation of a reportable cancer, accession a case based on the **clinical diagnosis** (when a recognized medical practitioner says the patient has a cancer or carcinoma). A clinical diagnosis may be recorded in the final diagnosis on the face sheet or other parts of the medical record.

Note: A pathology report normally takes precedence over a clinical diagnosis. If the patient has a negative biopsy, the case would not be reported.

Exception 1: If the physician treats a patient for cancer in spite of the negative biopsy, accession the case.

Exception 2: If enough time has passed that it is reasonable to assume that the physician has seen the negative pathology, but the clinician continues to call this a reportable disease, accession the case. A reasonable amount of time would be equal to or greater than 6 months.

Brain or CNS "Neoplasms"

A brain or a CNS 'neoplasm' identified by diagnostic imaging is reportable even when no other information is available (from biopsy or resection, for example).

AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY

Ambiguous terminology may originate in any source document, such as a pathology report, radiology report, or clinical report. The terms listed below are reportable.

Ambiguous terms that are reportable (used to determine reportability)

- Apparent(ly)
- Appears
- Comparable with
- Compatible with
- Consistent with

Favor(s)
Malignant appearing
Most likely
Presumed
Probable
Suspect(ed)
Suspicious (for)
Typical (of)

Do not substitute synonyms such as “supposed” for presumed or “equal” for comparable. Do not substitute “likely” for “most likely.”

HOW TO USE AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY FOR CASE ASCERTAINMENT

1. **In Situ and Invasive** (Behavior codes /2 and /3)

   a. If any of the reportable **ambiguous terms precede** a word that is **synonymous** with an in situ or invasive tumor (e.g.: cancer, carcinoma, malignant neoplasm, etc.), accession the case.

      Example: The pathology report says: Prostate biopsy with markedly abnormal cells that are typical of adenocarcinoma. Accession the case.

      Negative Example: The final diagnosis on the outpatient report reads: Rule out pancreatic cancer. Do not accession the case.

   b. **Discrepancies**
      i. Accession the case based on the reportable ambiguous term when there are reportable and non-reportable ambiguous terms in the medical record.

         1. Do not accession a case when subsequent documents refer to history of cancer and the original source document used a non-reportable ambiguous term.

            Example: Report from the dermatologist is “probable melanoma.” Patient admitted later for unrelated procedure and physician listed history of melanoma. Give priority to the information from the dermatologist. The later information is less reliable in this case.

      ii. When there is a single report, accept the reportable term and accession the case when one section of a report uses a reportable term such as “apparently” and another section of the same report uses a term that is not on the reportable list.

         Example: Abdominal CT reveals a 1 cm liver lesion. “The lesion is consistent with hepatocellular carcinoma” appears in the discussion section of the report. The final diagnosis is “1 cm liver lesion, possibly hepatocellular carcinoma.” Accession the case. "Consistent with" is a reportable ambiguous term. Accept "consistent with" over the non-reportable term "possibly."

      Exception: Do not accession a case based ONLY on suspicious cytology.

   c. Use these terms when **screening** diagnoses on pathology reports, operative reports, scans, mammograms, and other diagnostic testing other than tumor markers.

i. Do not accession a case when resection, excision, biopsy, cytology, or physician's statement proves the ambiguous diagnosis is not reportable.

Example 1: Mammogram shows calcifications suspicious for intraductal carcinoma. The biopsy of the area surrounding the calcifications is negative for malignancy. Do not accession the case.

Example 2: CT report states "mass in the right kidney, highly suspicious for renal cell carcinoma." CT-guided needle biopsy with final diagnosis "Neoplasm suggestive of oncocytoma. A malignant neoplasm cannot be excluded." Discharged back to the nursing home and no other information is available. Do not accession the case. The suspicious CT finding was biopsied and not proven to be malignant. "Suggestive of" is not a reportable ambiguous term.

Example 3: Stereotactic biopsy of the left breast is "focally suspicious for DCIS" and is followed by a negative needle localization excisional biopsy. Do not accession the case. The needle localization excisional biopsy was performed to further evaluate the suspicious stereotactic biopsy finding. The suspicious diagnosis was proven to be false.

Example 4: Esophageal biopsy with diagnosis of "focal areas suspicious for adenocarcinoma in situ change." Diagnosis on partial esophagectomy specimen "with foci of high grade dysplasia; no invasive carcinoma identified." Do not accession the case. The esophagectomy proved that the suspicious biopsy result was false.

2. Benign and **borderline** primary **intracranial** and **CNS** tumors

a. Use the above "Ambiguous terms that are reportable" list to identify benign and borderline primary intracranial and CNS tumors that are reportable.

b. If any of the reportable **ambiguous terms precede** either the word "**tumor**" or the word "**neoplasm**", accession the case.

Example: The mass on the CT scan is consistent with pituitary tumor. Accession the case.

c. **Discrepancies**

i. Accession the case based on the reportable ambiguous term when there are reportable and non-reportable ambiguous terms in the medical record.

1. Do not accession a case when subsequent documents refer to history of tumor and the original source document used a non-reportable ambiguous term.

ii. When there is a single report, accept the reportable term and accession the case when one section of a report uses a reportable term such as "apparently" and another section of the same report uses a term that is not on the reportable list.

Exception: Do not accession a case based ONLY on suspicious cytology.

d. Use these terms when **screening** diagnoses on pathology reports, scans, ultrasounds, and other diagnostic testing other than tumor markers.

i. Do not accession the case when resection, excision, biopsy, cytology or physician's statement proves the ambiguous diagnosis is not reportable.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEMATOPOEITIC AND LYMPHOID NEOPLASMS

See the Reportability Instructions in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual*.

CHANGING INFORMATION ON THE ABSTRACT

The information originally collected on the abstract should be changed or modified under the following circumstances.

1. To **correct** coding or abstracting **errors** whenever identified (for example, during quality control activities).

2. **When clarifications** or **rule changes** retroactively affect data item codes.

   Example: SEER adds codes to a data item and asks the registries to review a set of cases and update using the new codes.

3. **When better information** is available later.

   Example 1: Consults from specialty labs, pathology report addendums or comments or other information have been added to the chart. Reports done during the diagnostic workup and placed on the chart after the registrar abstracted the information may contain valuable information. Whenever these later reports give better information about the histology, grade of tumor, primary site, etc., change the codes to reflect the better information.

   Example 2: The primary site was recorded as unknown at the time of diagnosis. At a later date, the physician determines that the cancer is primary to the testis. Change the primary site from unknown to testis.

   Example 3: The original diagnosis was in situ. Metastases are diagnosed at a later date. Change the behavior code for the original diagnosis from in situ to invasive when no new primary has been diagnosed in the interim.

   Example 4: Patient seen in Hospital A. The pathologic diagnosis was negative for malignancy. Patient goes to Hospital B and the slides from Hospital A are re-read. The diagnosis at Hospital B is reportable. Hospital B sends their slide report back to Hospital A. Hospital A reports the case based on the info from Hospital B. Enter supporting documentation in a text field.

4. When the **date of diagnosis** is confirmed in retrospect to be earlier than the original date abstracted.

   Example: Patient has surgery for a benign argentaffin carcinoid (8240/1) of the sigmoid colon in May 2009. In January 2010 the patient is admitted with widespread metastasis consistent with malignant argentaffin carcinoid. The registrar accessions the malignant argentaffin carcinoid as a 2010 diagnosis. Two months later, the pathologist reviews the slides from the May 2009 surgery and concludes that the carcinoid diagnosed in 2009 was malignant. Change the date of diagnosis to May 2009 and histology to 8241 and the behavior code to malignant (/3).

DETERMINING MULTIPLE PRIMARIES: SOLID TUMORS

Apply the general instructions and instructions for determining multiple primaries in the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules Manual*.

Apply the site-specific multiple primary rules in the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules Manual*.

Site-specific multiple primary rules cover the following

- Head and neck — C000-C148, C300-C329
- Colon — C180-C189
- Lung — C340-C349
- Melanoma of the skin — C440-C449 with Histology 8720-8780
- Breast — C500-C509
- Kidney — C649
- Ureter/Renal pelvis/Bladder — C659, C669, C670-C679, C680-C689
- Benign brain — C700, C701, C709, C710-C719, C720-C725, C728, C729, C751-C753
- Malignant brain — C700, C701, C709, C710-C719, C720-C725, C728, C729, C751-C753
- Other sites — Excludes Head and Neck, Colon, Lung, Melanoma of Skin, Breast, Kidney, Renal Pelvis, Ureter, Bladder, Brain

Site-specific rules do **not** cover lymphoma and leukemia (9590-9992).

DETERMINING MULTIPLE PRIMARIES: HEMATOPOIETIC AND LYMPHOID NEOPLASMS

Apply the Multiple Primary Rules in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual.*

SECTION I
BASIC RECORD IDENTIFICATION

The Basic Record Identification fields provide a unique identifier for individual records or a set of records for each person and tumor in the SEER data system. The coded identifiers protect data confidentiality.

Note: For San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose/Monterey and Greater California the patient identifier identifies a unique patient across the entire state.

The combination of the SEER Participant Number, Patient ID Number, and Record Number identifies a unique patient record or tumor.

SEER PARTICIPANT

Item Length: 10
NAACCR Item #: 40
NAACCR Name: Registry ID

A unique code assigned to each SEER participating registry. The number identifies the registry sending the record and what population the data are based upon.

Code	Participant	Area Covered	Year SEER Reporting Started	Name
0000001501	Cancer Prevention Institute of California	5 counties	1973	San Francisco Oakland SMSA
0000001502	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Entire state	1973	Connecticut
0000001520	Karmanos Cancer Institute/Wayne State University	3 counties	1973	Metropolitan Detroit
0000001521	Research Corporation of Hawaii	Entire state	1973	Hawaii
0000001522	University of Iowa	Entire state	1973	Iowa
0000001523	University of New Mexico	Entire state	1973	New Mexico
0000001525	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	13 counties	1974	Seattle-Puget Sound
0000001526	University of Utah	Entire state	1973	Utah
0000001527	Emory University	5 counties	1975	Metropolitan Atlanta
0000001529	Alaska Native	Native American population of Alaska	1984	Alaska Native
0000001531	Cancer Prevention Institute of California	4 counties	1992	San Jose-Monterey
0000001533	University of New Mexico	Native American population of Arizona	1973	Arizona Indians
0000001535	University of Southern California	1 county	1992	Los Angeles
0000001537	Emory University	10 Counties	1978	Rural Georgia
0000001541	Public Health Institute, California	California except Los Angeles, San Francisco-Oakland, and San-Jose/Monterey	2000	Greater California
0000001542	University of Kentucky Research Foundation	Entire state	2000	Kentucky
0000001543	Louisiana State University HSC	Entire state	2000	Louisiana

Code	Participant	Area Covered	Year SEER Reporting Started	Name
0000001544	New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services	Entire state	2000	New Jersey
0000001551	Cherokee Nation – Oklahoma	Native American population	1997	Cherokee Nation

PATIENT ID NUMBER

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 20
NAACCR Name: Patient ID Number

The participating SEER registry generates a unique number and assigns that number to one patient.

The SEER registry will assign this same number to all of the patient's subsequent tumors (records).

Enter preceding zeros if the number is less than 8 digits.

Example: Patient # 7034 would be entered as 00007034.

Note: For the state of California, the patient ID number is assigned for the entire state, not for the individual registries within the state.

RECORD TYPE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 10
NAACCR Name: RECORD TYPE

This is a computer-generated field that identifies the type of record that is being transmitted. A file should have records of only one type.

Code	Description
I	**I**ncidence-only record type (nonconfidential coded data) Length = 3339
C	**C**onfidential record type (incidence record plus confidential data) Length = 5564
A	Full case **A**bstract record type (incidence and confidential data plus text summaries; used for reporting to central registries) Length = 22824
U	Correction/**U**pdate record type (short format record used to submit corrections to data already submitted) Length = 883
M	Record **M**odified since previous submission to central registry (identical in format to the "A" record type) Length = 22824
L	Pathology **L**aboratory

SEER RECORD NUMBER

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 2190
NAACCR Name: SEER Record Number

The Record Number is a unique sequential number. The highest number for each patient identifies the number of records that have been submitted to SEER for that particular patient. This data item is helpful in record linkage.

The record number is generated by the computer system for each SEER submission. The record numbers are sequential, starting with the number 01. The highest number assigned represents the total number of records submitted to SEER for that particular patient.

Code	Description
01	One or first of more than one record for person
02	Second record for the person
..	..
nn	Last of nn records for person

SEER CODING SYSTEM -- ORIGINAL

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2130
NAACCR Name: SEER Coding Sys--Original

SEER Coding System -- Original records the SEER coding system best describing the way the majority of SEER items in the record were originally coded. This is a computer-generated field.

Code	Description
0	No SEER coding
1	Pre-1988 SEER Coding Manuals
2	1988 SEER Coding Manual
3	1989 SEER Coding Manual
4	1992 SEER Coding Manual
5	1998 SEER Coding Manual
6	2003 SEER Coding Manual
7	2004 SEER Coding Manual
8	2007 SEER Coding Manual
9	2007 SEER Coding Manual with 2008 changes
A	2010 SEER Coding Manual

SEER CODING SYSTEM -- CURRENT

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2120
NAACCR Name: SEER Coding Sys--Current

SEER Coding System -- Current records the SEER coding system best describing the majority of SEER items as they are in the record (after conversion). This is a computer-generated field.

Code	Description
0	No SEER coding
1	Pre-1988 SEER Coding Manuals
2	1988 SEER Coding Manual
3	1989 SEER Coding Manual
4	1992 SEER Coding Manual
5	1998 SEER Coding Manual
6	2003 SEER Coding Manual
7	2004 SEER Coding Manual
8	2007 SEER Coding Manual
9	2007 SEER Coding Manual with 2008 changes
A	2010 SEER Coding Manual

SECTION II
INFORMATION SOURCE

TYPE OF REPORTING SOURCE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 500
NAACCR Name: Type of Reporting Source

The Type of Reporting Source identifies the source documents that provided the best information when abstracting the case. This is not necessarily the original document that identified the case; rather, it is the source that provided the best information.

Code	Description
1	Hospital inpatient; Managed health plans with comprehensive, unified medical records (new code definition effective with diagnosis on or after 1/1/2006)
2	Radiation Treatment Centers or Medical Oncology Centers (hospital affiliated or independent) (effective with diagnosis on or after 1/1/2006)
3	Laboratory Only (hospital affiliated or independent)
4	Physician's Office/Private Medical Practitioner (LMD)
5	Nursing/Convalescent Home / Hospice
6	Autopsy Only
7	Death Certificate Only
8	Other hospital outpatient units/surgery centers (effective with diagnosis on or after 1/1/2006)

Definitions

Comprehensive, unified medical record

- A hospital or managed health care system that maintains a single record for each patient. That record includes all encounters in affiliated locations.

Stand-alone medical record

- An independent facility; a facility that is not a part of a hospital or managed care system
- An independent medical record containing only information from encounters with that specific facility

Managed health plan

- Any facility where all of the diagnostic and treatment information is maintained in one unit record
- The abstractor is able to use the unit record when abstracting the case

  Examples of such facilities: HMOs or other health plan such as Kaiser, Veterans Administration, or military facilities

Physician office: A physician office performs examinations and tests. Some physician offices may perform limited surgical procedures.

Note: The category "physician's office" also includes facilities called surgery centers when those facilities cannot perform surgical procedures under general anesthesia.

Surgery center

- Surgery centers are equipped and staffed to perform surgical procedures under **general anesthesia**
- The patient usually does not stay overnight

Note: If the facility cannot perform surgical procedures under general anesthesia, code as physician's office.

Code	Label	Source Documents	Priority
1	Hospital inpatient; Managed health plans with comprehensive, unified medical records	Hospital inpatient Offices/facilities with a comprehensive, unified record • HMO physician office or group • HMO-affiliated freestanding laboratory, surgery, radiation or oncology clinic Includes outpatient services of HMOs and large multi-specialty physician group practices with unified records	1
2	Radiation Treatment Centers or Medical Oncology Centers (hospital-affiliated or independent)	Facilities with a stand-alone medical record • Radiation treatment centers • Medical oncology centers (hospital affiliated or independent) There were no source documents from code 1	2
3	Laboratory Only (hospital-affiliated or independent)	Laboratory with a stand-alone medical record There were no source documents from codes 1, 2, 8, or 4	5
4	Physician's Office/Private Medical Practitioner (LMD)	Physician's office that is NOT an HMO or large multi-specialty physician group practice There were no source documents from codes 1, 2 or 8	4
5	Nursing/Convalescent Home/Hospice	Nursing or convalescent home or a hospice There were no source documents from codes 1, 2, 8, 4, or 3	6
6	Autopsy Only	Autopsy The cancer was first diagnosed on autopsy. There are no source documents from codes 1, 2, 8, 4, 3, or 5	7
7	Death Certificate Only	Death certificate Death certificate is the only source of information; follow-back activities did not identify source documents from codes 1, 2, 8, 4, 3, 5 or 6. If another source document is subsequently identified, the Type of Reporting Source code must be changed to the appropriate code in the range of 1, 2, 8, 4, 3, 5 or 6.	8
8	Other hospital outpatient units/surgery centers	Other hospital outpatient units/surgery centers Includes, but not limited to, outpatient surgery and nuclear medicine services. There are no source documents from codes 1 or 2	3

Priority Order for Assigning Type of Reporting Source

When multiple source documents are used to abstract a case, use the following priority order to assign a code for Type of Reporting Source: Codes: 1, 2, 8, 4, 3, 5, 6, 7.

Code the source that provided the best information used to abstract the case.

***Example**:* The only patient record available for a physician office biopsy is the pathology report identified from a freestanding laboratory. Assign code 3 [Laboratory Only (hospital-affiliated or independent)]. Reporting source should reflect the lab where this case was identified. The MD office added nothing to the case, not even a confirmation of malignancy.

Note: Beginning with cases diagnosed 1/1/2006, the definitions for this field have been expanded. Codes 2 and 8 were added to identify outpatient sources that were previously grouped under code 1. Laboratory reports now have priority over nursing home reports. The source facilities included in the previous code 1 (hospital inpatient and outpatient) are split between codes 1, 2, and 8.

SEER recommends that you do not make changes to the field for cases already exisiting in the central cancer registry database diagnosed prior to January 1, 2006. Conversion of the old codes would be problematic and would require extensive and time-consuming review of original source documentation.

SECTION III
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT DIAGNOSIS

SEER registries collect information on place of residence at diagnosis. Information relating to address is not transmitted to SEER. (County is the smallest geographic unit transmitted.) The SEER rules for determining residency at diagnosis are either identical or comparable to rules used by the US Census Bureau, to ensure comparability of definitions of cases (numerator) and the population at risk (denominator).

Coding Priorities/Sources

1. Code the **street address** of usual residence as stated by the patient. Definition: US Census Bureau Instructions: "The place where he or she lives and sleeps most of the time or the place the person says is his or her usual home." The residency rules of departments of vital statistics may differ from those of the US Census Bureau/SEER.

2. **A post office box** is not a reliable source to identify the residency at diagnosis. Post office box addresses do not provide accurate geographical information for analyzing cancer incidence. Use the post office box address only if no street address information is available after follow-back.

3. Use residency information from a **death certificate** only when the residency from other sources is coded as unknown. Review each case carefully and apply the US Census Bureau/SEER rules for determining residence. The death certificate may give the person's previous home address rather than the nursing home address as the place of residence; use the nursing home address as the place of residence.

4. Do not use **legal status** or **citizenship** to code residence.

Persons with More than One Residence

1. Code the residence where the patient spends the majority of time (usual residence).

2. If the usual residence is not known or the information is not available, code the residence the patient specifies at the time of diagnosis.

***Examples*:** The above rules should be followed for "snowbirds" who live in the south for the winter months, "sunbirds" who live in the north during the summer months, and people with vacation residences that they occupy for a portion of the year.

Persons with No Usual Residence

Homeless people and transients are examples of persons with no usual residence. Code the patient's residence at the time of diagnosis such as the shelter or the hospital where diagnosis was confirmed.

Temporary Residents of SEER Area

Code the place of usual residence rather than the temporary address for:

Migrant workers
Educators temporarily assigned to a university in the SEER area
Persons **temporarily residing** with family during cancer treatment
Military personnel on **temporary** duty assignments (TDY)
Boarding school students below college level (code the parent's residence)

Code the residence where the student is living while attending **college.**

Code the address of the institution for **Persons in Institutions.**

US Census Bureau definition: "Persons under formally authorized, supervised care or custody" are residents of the institution."

Persons who are incarcerated

Persons who are physically handicapped, mentally retarded, or mentally ill who are residents of homes, schools, hospitals or wards

Residents of nursing, convalescent, and rest homes

Long-term residents of other hospitals such as Veteran's Administration (VA) hospitals

Persons in the Armed Forces and on Maritime Ships (Merchant Marine)

Armed Forces

For military personnel and their family members, code the address of the military installation or surrounding community as stated by the patient.

Personnel Assigned to Navy, Coast Guard, and Maritime Ships

The US Census Bureau has detailed rules for determining residency for personnel assigned to these ships. The rules refer to the ship's deployment, port of departure, destination, and its homeport. Refer to US Census Bureau Publications for detailed rules: http://www.census.gov

COUNTY

Item Length: 3
NAACCR Item #: 90
NAACCR Name: County at DX

Codes for county of residence for each SEER area are listed in Appendix A.

Use code 999 when it is known that a person is a resident of a particular SEER region, but the exact county is not known.

CENSUS TRACT 2000

Item Length: 6
NAACCR Item #: 130
NAACCR Name: Census Tract 2000

Census Tract 2000 is coded by the central registry. Census Tract 2000 records the census tract of a patient's residence at the time of diagnosis. The codes are the same codes used by the US Census Bureau for the Year 2000 census. This item is coded for cases diagnosed January 1, 1996, and forward. This field allows a central registry to add year 2000 Census tracts to cases diagnosed in previous years without losing the codes in the field Census Tract 1970/80/90 which is only collected historically.

A census tract is a small statistical subdivision of a county that, in general, has between 2,500 and 8,000 residents. Local committees and the US Census Bureau establish census tract boundaries and try to keep the same boundaries from census to census to maintain historical comparability, though this is not always possible. When populations increase or decrease, old tracts may be subdivided, disappear, or have their boundaries changed. Because the census tracts do change, it is important to know which census tract definition is used to code them.

Codes

Census tract codes 000100-999998

Special Codes

Code	Description
000000	Area not census tracted
999999	Area census tracted, but census tract is not available
Blank	Census Tract 2000 not coded

Coding Instructions

1. Code the Census tract of the patient's residence at the time of diagnosis.

2. Census tract codes should be assigned based on a computer match (geocoding software).

3. Census tracts are identified by four-digit numbers ranging from 0001 to 9989 and a two-digit suffix.

4. Assign code 999999 when an area does have an assigned census tract but the census tract is not available.

5. Right justify the first four digits and zero fill to the left. Add the suffix as the fifth and sixth digits if it exists; otherwise, use 00 so all six positions are coded.

   Example 1: Code census tract 516 and suffix 21 to 051621

   Example 2: Census tract 409 and suffix does not exist should be coded 040900

CENSUS TRACT CERTAINTY 2000

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 365
NAACCR Name: Census Tr Certainty 2000

Census tract certainty is coded by the central registry. Census tract certainty records how the 2000 census tract was assigned for an individual record. Most of the time, this information is provided by a geocoding vendor service. Central registry staff should code this field manually when geocoding is not available through a vendor service. This item is coded for cases diagnosed January 1, 1996, and forward.

Code	Description
1	Census tract based on complete and valid street address of residence
2	Census tract based on residence ZIP + 4
3	Census tract based on residence ZIP + 2
4	Census tract based on residence ZIP code only
5	Census tract based on ZIP code of post office box
6	Census tract/BNA based on residence city where city has only one census tract, or based on residence ZIP code where ZIP code has only one census tract
9	Not assigned, geocoding attempted
Blank	Not assigned, geocoding **not** attempted

Coding Priority

The codes are hierarchical with the numerically lower codes having priority.

1. Code 1 has priority over codes 2-6 and 9

2. Code 2 has priority over codes 3-6 and 9

3. Code 6 has priority over codes 3-5, and 9

4. Code 3 has priority over codes 4, 5, and 9

5. Code 4 has priority over codes 5 and 9

6. Code 5 has priority over code 9

Note: Codes 1-5 and 9 are usually assigned by a geocoding vendor, while code 6 is usually assigned through a special effort by the central registry.

Coding Instructions

1. Code 1

    a. Used when the census tract is assigned with certainty based on street address

    b. May be assigned based on a computer match (geocoding software)

    c. May be assigned based on a central registry's manual coding system

    Example 1: The registry used a complete and valid street address to assign the census tract.

Example 2: The registry used a rural route number to assign the census tract, and has confirmed that the rural route lies completely within a single census tract.

Example 3: The registry used an incomplete street address to assign the census tract, and has confirmed that the entire street lies within a single census tract.

2. Codes 2-5

    a. Assign when there is some uncertainty about the census tract assignment

    b. May be assigned based on a computer match (geocoding software)

    c. May be assigned based on a central registry manually appointed code

    d. Assign code 4 when

        i. Street address is incomplete or invalid, but ZIP code is known
        ii. Only rural route number is available, but ZIP code is known

    e. Assign code 5 when the registry used a post office box and ZIP code to code the census tract

3. Code 6
    a. Usually assigned through a special effort by the central registry

    b. Will apply only in sparsely populated areas

4. Code 9

    a. ZIP code is missing OR

    b. The complete address of the patient is unknown or cannot be determined OR

    c. There is insufficient information to assign a census code.

Note: Avoid using the post office box mailing address to code the census tract whenever possible.

PLACE OF BIRTH

Item Length: 3
NAACCR Item #: 250
NAACCR Name: Birthplace

The numeric and alphabetic lists of birthplaces and corresponding geocodes are provided in Appendix B of this manual.

SEER Geocodes were originally assigned during the 1970s. Since that time, many countries and islands have been given their independence, or control has been turned over to another country. To maintain consistency over time, SEER has maintained the original code for these countries and islands. The names have been annotated to display the current political designation.

Special Codes

Code	Description
000	United States, NOS
998	Non-United States, NOS
999	Unknown

Coding Instructions

Assign the most specific code possible from Appendix B.

DATE OF BIRTH

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 240
NAACCR Name: Date of Birth

Date of Birth identifies the month, day and year of the patient's birth. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year

Codes for Month

Code	Description
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July
08	August
09	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

Codes for Day

Code
01
02
03
..
..
31

Coding Instructions

1. Code the date of birth

2. If the date of birth is **unknown**, but the **Age** at Diagnosis and Date **of Diagnosis** are **known**:

    a. Calculate the year of birth by subtracting the patient's age at diagnosis from the year of diagnosis.

    b. Leave the month and day blank.

Note: A zero must precede a single-digit month and a single-digit day.
Example: September 5, 1970 would be transmitted as 19700905.

DATE OF BIRTH FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 241
NAACCR Name: Date of Birth Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Birth
12	Unknown	A proper value is applicable but not known

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this item blank when Date of Birth has a full or partial date recorded
2. Assign code 12 when the date of birth cannot be determined

AGE AT DIAGNOSIS

Item Length: 3
NAACCR Item #: 230
NAACCR Name: Age at Diagnosis

This data item represents the age of the patient at diagnosis **for this cancer**.

Code	Description
000	Less than one year old
001	One year old, but less than two years old
002	Two years old
…	
…	(Actual age in years)
…	
101	One hundred one years old
…	
120	One hundred twenty years old
999	Unknown age

Coding Instructions

1. **Measure** the patient's age in **completed years** of life, i.e., age at the patient's **last** birthday.

2. Generally, the registry software program calculates the Age at Diagnosis using the Date of Birth and Date of Diagnosis.

3. Age at Diagnosis can be manually calculated using the date of birth and the date of diagnosis.

Cases Diagnosed In Utero

Record 000, less than one year old, for cases diagnosed in utero.
Generally, registry software programs calculate the Age at Diagnosis using the Date of Birth and Date of Diagnosis. The calculation may result in a negative number for a case diagnosed in utero – replace the negative number with 000. Code age 000 for all diagnoses within the first year of life or before.

RACE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 160, 161, 162, 163, 164
NAACCR Name: Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4, Race 5

Race and ethnicity are defined by specific physical, hereditary and cultural traditions or origins, not necessarily by birthplace, place of residence, or citizenship. 'Origin' is defined by the US Census Bureau as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or in some cases, the country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

The five race fields (Race 1 - Race 5) allow for the coding of multiple races consistent with the 2000 Census. All resources in the facility, including the medical record, face sheet, physician and nursing notes, photographs, and any other sources, must be used to determine race. If a facility does not print race in the medical record but does maintain it in electronic form, the electronic data must also be reviewed.

Recommendation: Document how the race code(s) was (were) determined in a text field.

Code	Description
01	White
02	Black
03	American Indian, Aleutian, Alaskan Native or Eskimo (includes all indigenous populations of the western hemisphere)
04	Chinese
05	Japanese
06	Filipino
07	Hawaiian
08	Korean
10	Vietnamese
11	Laotian
12	Hmong
13	Kampuchean (including Khmer and Cambodian)
14	Thai
15	Asian Indian or Pakistani, NOS (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
16	Asian Indian (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
17	Pakistani (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
20	Micronesian, NOS
21	Chamorran
22	Guamanian, NOS
25	Polynesian, NOS
26	Tahitian
27	Samoan
28	Tongan
30	Melanesian, NOS
31	Fiji Islander
32	New Guinean
96	Other Asian, including Asian, NOS and Oriental, NOS
97	Pacific Islander, NOS
98	Other
99	Unknown

Priorities for Coding Multiple Races

1. Code 07 takes priority over all other codes.

   Example: Patient is described as Japanese and Hawaiian. Code Race 1 as 07 (Hawaiian), Race 2 as 05 (Japanese).

2. Codes 02-98 take priority over code 01.

3. Code only the specific race when both a specific race code and a non-specific race code apply.

   a. Codes 04-17 take priority over code 96

   b. Codes 16-17 take priority over code 15

   c. Codes 20-32 take priority over code 97

   d. Codes 01-32 and 96-97 take priority over code 98

   e. Code 98 takes priority over code 99

Coding Instructions

1. Do **not** use patient name as the basis for coding race.

   a. See Coding Instruction 13, Exception, for the only situation in which name is taken into account when coding race.

2. Code race using the highest priority source available according to the list below (a is the highest and c is the lowest) when race is reported differently by two or more sources.

   Sources in Priority Order

   a. The patient's self-declared identification

   b. Documentation in the medical record

   c. Death certificate

3. Assign the same race code(s) for all tumors for one patient.

4. Code the race(s) of the patient in fields Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4, and Race 5.

   a. Code 88 for the remaining race fields (Race 2 - Race 5) when only one race is reported

5. Use the associated text field to document

   a. Why a particular race code was chosen when there are discrepancies in race information

      Example: The patient is identified as Black in nursing notes and White in a dictated physical exam. Use a text field to document why one race was coded rather than the other.

b. That no race information is available

6. Code as 01 (White) when

   a. The race is described as White or Caucasian regardless of place of birth

   b. There is a statement that the patient is Hispanic or Latino(a) and no further information is available

      Example: Sabrina Fitzsimmons is a Latina. Code race as 01 (White).

      Note: Do not code 98 (Other) in this situation

   Note: Persons of Spanish or Hispanic origin may be of any race, although persons of Mexican, Central American, South American, Puerto Rican, or Cuban origin are usually White.

7. Code race as 02 (Black) when the stated race is African-American, Black, or Negro.

8. Assign code 03 for any person stated to be

   a. Native American (western hemisphere)
      OR
   b. Indian, whether from North, Central, South, or Latin America.

9. Assign a specific code when a specific Asian race is stated. Code 96 is not applicable when a specific race is known.

   Example: Patient is described as Asian in a consult note and as second generation Korean-American in the history. Code Race 1 as 08 (Korean) and Race 2 through Race 5 as 88.

   Note: Do not code 96 (Other Asian including Asian, NOS and Oriental, NOS) in a subsequent race field when a specific Asian race has been coded.

10. Code the race based on birthplace information when the race is recorded as Oriental, Mongolian, or Asian and the place of birth is recorded as China, Japan, the Philippines, or another Asian nation.

    Example 1: Race is recorded as Asian and the place of birth is recorded as Japan. Code race as 05 (Japanese) because it is more specific than 96.

    Example 2: The person describes himself as an Asian-American born in Laos. Code race as 11 (Laotian) because it is more specific than 96.

11. Use the appropriate non-specific code 96 (Other Asian including Asian, NOS and Oriental, NOS), 97 (Pacific Islander, NOS) or 98 (Other) when there is no race code for a specific race.

    Note: Document the specified race in a text field

12. All race fields must be coded 99 (Unknown) when Race 1 is coded 99 (Unknown).

    Note: Assign code 99 in Race 2-5 *only when* Race 1 is coded 99

13. Refer to Appendix D "Race and Nationality Descriptions from the 2000 Census and Bureau of Vital Statistics when race is unknown or not stated in the medical record and birth place is recorded.

    a. In some cases, race may be inferred from the nationality. Use Appendix D to identify nationalities from which race codes may be inferred.

Example 1: Record states: "this native of Portugal..." Code race as 01 (White) per the Appendix.

Example 2: Record states: "this patient was Nigerian..." Code race as 02 (Black) per the Appendix.

Exception: Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 (Unknown) when patient's name is incongruous with the race inferred on the basis of nationality. Do not code the inferred race when then patient's name is incongruent with the race inferred on the basis of nationality.

Example 1: Patient's name is Siddhartha Rao and birthplace is listed as England. Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 (Unknown).

Example 2: Patient's name is Ping Chen and birthplace is Ethiopia. Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 (Unknown).

Coding Examples

Example 1: Patient is stated to be Japanese. Code as 05 (Japanese).

Example 2: Patient is stated to be German-Irish. Code as 01 (White).

Example 3: Patient is described as Arabian. Code as 01 (White).

Example 4: Patient described as a black female. Code as 02 (Black).

Example 5: Patient states she has a Polynesian mother and Tahitian father. Code Race 1 as 25 (Polynesian), Race 2 as 26 (Tahitian) and Race 3 through Race 5 as 88.

Example 6: Patient describes herself as multi-racial (nothing more specific) and nursing notes say "African-American." Code Race 1as 02 (Black) and Race 2 through Race 5 as 88

Example 7: The patient is described as Asian-American with Korean parents. Code race as 08 (Korean) because it is more specific than 96 (Asian) [-American].

Example 8: Race 1 through Race 5 in the cancer record are coded as 99 (Unknown). The death certificate states race as black. Change cancer record for Race 1 to 02 (Black) and Race 2 through Race 5 to 88.

Example 9: Race 1 is coded in the cancer record as 96 (Asian). Death certificate gives birthplace as China. Change Race 1 in the cancer record to 04 (Chinese) and code Race 2 through Race 5 as 88.

History

1. Race 1 is the field used to compare with race data on cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2000.

2. Race codes must be identical on each record when the patient has multiple records.

    a. For cases with all diagnoses prior to January 1, 2000, Race 2 through Race 5 must be blank.

    b. For cases that have multiple records with at least one primary diagnosed **on or after January 1, 2000**, race codes in Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4 and Race 5 must be identical on all records.

3. Codes 08-13 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1988.

4. Code 09 was **retired** effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 2010.

5. Code 14 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1994.

6. Codes 15, 16 and 17 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 2010.

7. Codes 20-97 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1991.

8. San Francisco, San Jose-Monterey, and Los Angeles are permitted to use codes 14 and 20-97 for cases diagnosed after January 1, 1987; Greater California is permitted to use codes 14 and 20-97 for cases diagnosed after January 1, 1988. Other SEER registries may choose to recode cases diagnosed prior to 1991 using 14 and 20-97 if all cases in the following race codes are reviewed: 96 (Other Asian, including Asian, NOS and Oriental, NOS); 97 (Pacific Islander, NOS); 98 (Other); and 99 (Unknown).

RACE-NAPIIA

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 193
NAACCR Name: Race-NAPIIA (Derived API)

NAPIIA stands for NAACCR Asian and Pacific Islander Identification Algorithm. Race-NAPIIA recodes some single-race cases with a Race 1 [160] code of 96 to a more specific Asian race category, based on a computerized algorithm that uses the birthplace and name fields (first, last, and maiden names). For single-race cases with a code other than 96 in Race 1, the algorithm defaults to the code in Race 1. Race-NAPIIA will vary for multiple-race cases (those with information in Race 2 through Race 5, [161-164]) depending on the combination of race codes documented; refer to the technical documentation for specifics: http://www.naaccr.org/filesystem/pdf/NAPIIA%20v1.1%2007032008.pdf.

In Version 1 of the algorithm, birth place can be used to indirectly assign a specific race to one of eight Asian race groups (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Asian Indian, Filipino, Thai, and Cambodian), and names can be used to indirectly assign a specific race to one of seven Asian groups (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Asian Indian, Filipino, and Hmong). Subsequent versions of NAPIIA may incorporate Pacific Islanders and may potentially incorporate name lists for Thai, Cambodian, and Laotians.

Note: Surname lists are just one component of the NAPIIA algorithm. A number of filters based on race, ethnicity, birthplace, or county of residence may preclude a patient from being assigned a race based on surname.

Code	Description
01	White
02	Black
03	American Indian, Aleutian, or Eskimo (includes all indigenous populations of the Western hemisphere)
04	Chinese
05	Japanese
06	Filipino
07	Hawaiian
08	Korean
10	Vietnamese
11	Laotian
12	Hmong
13	Kampuchean (Cambodian)
14	Thai
15	Asian Indian or Pakistani, NOS (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
16	Asian Indian (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
17	Pakistani (Effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
20	Micronesian, NOS
21	Chamorran
22	Guamanian, NOS
25	Polynesian, NOS
26	Tahitian
27	Samoan
28	Tongan
30	Melanesian, NOS
31	Fiji Islander
32	New Guinean
96	Other Asian, including Asian, NOS and Oriental, NOS
97	Pacific Islander, NOS
98	Other
99	Unknown

Note: Codes 20-97 were adopted for use effective with 1991 diagnoses. Code 14 was adopted for use effective with 1994 diagnoses. Codes 15-17 were adopted for use effective with 2010 diagnoses.

IHS LINK

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 192
NAACCR Name: IHS Link

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Link reports the result of linkage between the registry database and the Indian Health Service patient registration database. This linkage identifies American Indians who were misclassified as non-Indian in the registry. The computer linkage program will automatically assign the code for this data item.

SEER requires the IHS Link for cases diagnosed January 1, 1988, and forward. IHS link may be submitted for cases diagnosed in earlier years. The field will be blank unless an attempt was made to link the case with the records from the Indian Health Service.

Code	Description
0	Record sent for linkage, no IHS match
1	Record sent for linkage, IHS match
Blank	Record not sent for linkage or linkage result pending

SPANISH SURNAME OR ORIGIN

Item Length: 1
NAACCR item #: 190
NAACCR Name: Spanish/Hispanic Origin

This data item is used to identify patients with Spanish/Hispanic surname or of Spanish origin. Persons of Spanish or Hispanic surname/origin may be of any race.

Code	Description
0	Non-Spanish/Non-Hispanic
1	Mexican (includes Chicano)
2	Puerto Rican
3	Cuban
4	South or Central American (except Brazil)
5	Other specified Spanish/Hispanic origin (includes European; excludes Dominican Republic)
6	Spanish, NOS; Hispanic, NOS; Latino, NOS There is evidence, **other than surname or maiden name**, that the person is Hispanic but he/she cannot be assigned to any of the categories 1-5.
7	Spanish surname only (effective with diagnosis on or after 1/1/1994) The **only** evidence of the person's Hispanic origin is the **surname or maiden name** and there is **no evidence that he/she is not Hispanic.**
8	Dominican Republic (effective with diagnosis on or after 1/1/2005)
9	Unknown whether Spanish/Hispanic or not

Coding Instructions

1. Coding Spanish Surname or Origin is not dependent on race. A person of Spanish descent may be white, black, or any other race.

2. Assign code 7 when the only evidence of the patient's Hispanic origin is a surname or maiden name and there is no evidence that the patient is not Hispanic. Code 7 is ordinarily for central registry use only.

3. Portuguese, Brazilians and Filipinos are not presumed to be Spanish or non-Spanish.

    a. Assign code 7 when the patient is Portuguese, Brazilian, or Filipino and their name appears on a Hispanic surname list.

    b. Assign code 0 when the patient is Portuguese, Brazilian, or Filipino and their name does NOT appear on a Hispanic surname list.

4. Use all information to determine the Spanish/Hispanic Origin including

    a. The ethnicity stated in the medical record

    b. Hispanic origin stated on the death certificate

    c. Birthplace

    d. Information about life history and/or language spoken found in the abstracting process

    e. A last name or maiden name found on a list of Hispanic/Spanish names

COMPUTED ETHNICITY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 200
NAACCR Name: Computed Ethnicity

Computed Ethnicity records the ethnicity based on last name and/or maiden name using a computer algorithm. The computer algorithm compares a list of names with the patient's surname and/or maiden name to test for Hispanic ethnicity. A computer algorithm must be used to compute ethnicity for all cases diagnosed January 1, 1994 and later. This data item is used in conjunction with the data item Computed Ethnicity Source.

The computer-derived ethnicity may differ from the manually assigned ethnicity (Spanish/Hispanic Origin).

Do not record results from NHIA in this field.

Code	Description
0	No match [linkage] was run (for 1994 and later cases)
1	Non-Hispanic last name and non-Hispanic maiden name
2	Non-Hispanic last name, did not check maiden name, or patient was male
3	Non-Hispanic last name, missing maiden name
4	Hispanic last name, non-Hispanic maiden name
5	Hispanic last name, did not check maiden name or patient was male
6	Hispanic last name, missing maiden name
7	Hispanic maiden name (females only) (regardless of last name)
Blank	1993 and earlier cases; no match [linkage] was run

Note: For SEER, blank is allowed only for tumors diagnosed in 1993 and earlier.

COMPUTED ETHNICITY SOURCE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 210
NAACCR Name: Computed Ethnicity Source

Computed Ethnicity Source identifies the database, method, or computer algorithm that was used to determine ethnicity as recorded in the Computed Ethnicity. The two fields are used together to describe computed ethnicity data.

Do not record results of NHIA in this field.

Code	Description
0	No match [linkage] was run for 1994 and later cases
1	Census Bureau list of Spanish surnames, NOS
2	1980 Census Bureau list of Spanish surnames
3	1990 Census Bureau list of Spanish surnames
4	GUESS program
5	Combination list including South Florida names
6	Combination of Census and other locally generated list
7	Combination of Census and GUESS, with or without other lists
8	Other type of match (Do not record results of NHIA in this field)
9	Unknown type of match
Blank	1993 and earlier cases, no match [linkage] was run

Note: For SEER, blank is allowed only for tumors diagnosed in 1993 and earlier.

NHIA DERIVED HISPANIC ORIGIN

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 191
NAACCR Name: NHIA Derived Hisp Origin

The NAACCR Hispanic Identification Algorithm (NHIA) is a computerized algorithm that uses a combination of variables to directly or indirectly classify cases as Hispanic for analytic purposes.

Note: Surname lists are just one component of the indirect assignment of ethnicity or race by NHIA. A number of filters based on race, ethnicity, birthplace, or county attribute may preclude a patient from ever being indirectly assigned based on surname. Also, if a patient is coded as non-Hispanic, the registry may elect NOT to run the case through NHIA. A female patient's last name could, however, be used to classify the case as Hispanic for the NHIA variable after making it through the filters and exclusions. Persons are also included as Hispanic/Latino(a) when they are female cases with heavily Hispanic maiden names; female cases with missing maiden names and heavily Hispanic last names; female cases with generally Hispanic, moderately Hispanic, occasionally Hispanic, or indeterminate maiden names and heavily Hispanic last names.

Code	Description
0	Non-Hispanic
1	Mexican, by birthplace or other specific identifier
2	Puerto Rican, by birthplace or other specific identifier
3	Cuban, by birthplace or other specific identifier
4	South or Central American (except Brazil), by birthplace or other specific identifier
5	Other specified Spanish/Hispanic origin (includes European; excludes Dominican Republic), by birthplace or other specific identifier
6	Spanish, NOS; Hispanic, NOS; Latino, NOS
7	NHIA surname match only
8	Dominican Republic
Blank	Algorithm has not been run

SEX

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 220
NAACCR Name: Sex

Code the sex of the patient at the time of diagnosis.

Codes	Description
1	Male
2	Female
3	Other (hermaphrodite)
4	Transsexual
9	Not stated/Unknown

Definitions

Transsexual: Surgically altered gender

Transgendered: A person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that differs from the one which corresponds to the person's sex at birth.

Coding Instructions

1. Assign code 3 for Intersexed (persons with sex chromosome abnormalities).

2. Assign code 4 for Transgendered.

MARITAL STATUS AT DIAGNOSIS

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 150
NAACCR Name: Marital Status at DX

Code the patient's marital status at the time of diagnosis for the reportable tumor.

Code	Description
1	Single (never married)
2	Married (including common law)
3	Separated
4	Divorced
5	Widowed
9	Unknown

Note: If the patient has multiple tumors, marital status may be different for each tumor.

Assign code 2 [Married (including common law)] when the patient declares him/herself as married. Marriage is a self-reported state.

Justification for Continued Collection

Marital Status was evaluated for possible retirement (discontinuation of collection). It will not be retired at this time because it is readily available and provides important information not available from any other data item.

Availability: Marital status is readily available from medical records and easily coded. Completeness (i.e., non-missing value coded) is 95% in the SEER database for 1973-2006 diagnoses. Completeness is slightly lower, at 93%, for the most recent diagnosis year, 2006. There is very little difference in completeness by vital status (e.g., for 1973-2006 cases, completeness is 93% among those living and 96% among decedents).

Utility: Marital status for both men and women is correlated with mortality, stage at diagnosis, tumor size at diagnosis, cancer screening, cancer treatment delay, and other healthcare seeking behaviors. It is an important factor to consider when reporting disparities in diagnosis and survival.

PRIMARY PAYER AT DIAGNOSIS

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item # 630
NAACCR Name: Primary Payer at DX

Primary Payer at Diagnosis identifies the patient's primary insurance carrier or method of payment at the time of initial diagnosis and/or treatment.

Code	Label	Definition
01	Not insured	Patient has no insurance and is declared a charity write-off
02	Not insured, self pay	Patient has no insurance and is declared responsible for charges
10	Insurance, NOS	Type of insurance unknown or other than types listed in codes 20, 21, 31, 35, 60-68
20	Private Insurance: Managed care, HMO, or PPO	An organized system of prepaid care for a group of enrollees usually within a defined geographic area. Generally formed as one of four types: a group model, an independent physician association (IPA), a network, or a staff model. "Gate-keeper model" is another term for describing this type of insurance.
21	Private Insurance: Fee-for-service	An insurance plan that does not have negotiated fee structure with the participating hospital. Type of insurance plan not coded as 20.
31	Medicaid	State government administered insurance for persons who are uninsured, below the poverty level, or covered under entitlement programs. Medicaid other than described in code 35
35	Medicaid – administered through a Managed Care plan	Patient is enrolled in Medicaid through a Managed Care program (e.g. HMO or PPO). The managed care plan pays for all incurred costs.
60	Medicare/Medicare, NOS	Federal government funded insurance for persons who are 62 years of age or older, or are chronically disabled (social security insurance eligible). Includes Medicare without supplement. Not described in codes 61, 62, or 63.
61	Medicare with supplement, NOS	Patient has Medicare and another type of unspecified insurance to pay costs not covered by Medicare. (See also, codes 63 and 64.)
62	Medicare – Administered through a Managed Care Plan	Patient is enrolled in Medicare through a Managed Care plan (e.g. HMO or PPO). The Managed Care plan pays for all incurred costs.
63	Medicare with private supplement	Patient has Medicare and private insurance to pay costs not covered by Medicare
64	Medicare with Medicaid eligibility	Federal government Medicare insurance with state-administered Medicaid supplement.
65	TRICARE	Department of Defense program providing supplementary civilian-sector hospital and medical services beyond a military treatment facility to military dependents, retirees, and their dependents. Formerly CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services).
66	Military	Military personnel or their dependents treated at a military facility

Code	Label	Definition
67	Veterans Affairs	Veterans treated in Department of Veterans Affairs facilities
68	Indian/Public Health Service	Patient receives care at an Indian Health Service facility or at another facility and medical costs are reimbursed by the Indian Health Service Patient receives care at a Public Health Service facility or at another facility, and medical costs are reimbursed by the Public Health Service.
99	Insurance status unknown	Patient's medical record does not indicate whether or not the patient is insured.

Coding Instructions

1. Code the type of insurance reported on the patient's admission record.
2. Code the first insurance mentioned when multiple insurance carriers are listed on the patient's admission record.
3. Code the patient's insurance at the time of initial diagnosis and/or treatment. Do not change the insurance information based on subsequent information.

SECTION IV
DESCRIPTION OF THIS NEOPLASM

DATE OF DIAGNOSIS

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 390
NAACCR Name: Date of Diagnosis

The date of diagnosis is the month, day and year the tumor was first diagnosed, clinically or microscopically, by a recognized medical practitioner.

Date of diagnosis must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date of diagnosis may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format. Regardless of the format, at least **Year** of diagnosis **must be known or estimated**. Year of diagnosis **cannot be blank or unknown**.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Transmit only known or estimated year of diagnosis, blanks will not be accepted. Leave the month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Transmit only known or estimated year of diagnosis, blanks will not be accepted.
3. Leave the month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
4. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year of diagnosis. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year of diagnosis

Codes for Month

Code	*Description*
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July

Code	*Description*
08	August
09	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

Codes for Day

Code
01
02
03
..
..
31

Coding Instructions

1. When the only information available is a positive pathology or cytology report, code the date the biopsy was done, not the date the report was dictated or transcribed.

2. The first diagnosis of cancer may be **clinical** (i.e. based on clinical findings or physician's documentation)

   Note: Do not change the date of diagnosis when a clinical diagnosis is subsequently confirmed by positive histology or cytology.

   Example: On May 15, 2010, physician states that patient has lung cancer based on clinical findings. The patient has a positive biopsy of the lung in June 3, 2010. The date of diagnosis remains May 15, 2010

3. If no information about the date of diagnosis is available

   a. Use the date of admission as the date of diagnosis

   b. In the absence of an admission date, code the date of first treatment as the date of diagnosis

4. Positive **tumor markers** alone are not diagnostic of cancer. Use the date of clinical, histologic, or positive cytologic confirmation as the date of diagnosis.

   Example 1: The patient has an elevated PSA and the physical examination is negative. The physician documents only that the patient is referred for a needle biopsy of the prostate. The biopsy is positive for adenocarcinoma. The date of diagnosis is the date of the biopsy (do not code the date the procedure was dictated or transcribed).

   Example 2: The patient has an elevated PSA and the physical examination is negative. The physician documents that he/she suspects that the patient has prostatic cancer and is referring the patient for a needle biopsy. The needle biopsy is positive. The date of diagnosis is the date the physician documented that he/she **suspects** that the patient has prostatic cancer.

Note: Positive tumor markers alone are never used for case ascertainment.

5. **Suspicious cytology alone** is not diagnostic of cancer. Use the date of clinical, histologic, or **positive** cytologic confirmation as the date of diagnosis.

   Note: Do **not** use suspicious cytology alone for case ascertainment

6. Code the earlier date as the date of diagnosis when

   a. A recognized medical practitioner says that, in **retrospect**, the patient had cancer at an earlier date

   b. The original slides are reviewed and the pathologist documents that cancer was present Code the diagnosis date as the date the original slides were made

   Example: The patient had an excision of a benign fibrous histiocytoma in January 2010. Six months later, a wide re-excision was positive for malignant fibrous histiocytoma. The physician documents in the chart that the previous tumor must have been malignant. Code the diagnosis date as January 2010.

   Note: Do not back-date the diagnosis

   a. When the information on the previous tumor is unclear **AND/OR**

   b. There is **no review** of previous slides **AND/OR**

   c. There is **no physician's statement** that, in retrospect, the previous tumor was malignant

   Example: The patient had a total hysterectomy and a bilateral salpingo oophorectomy (BSO) in June 2010 with pathology diagnosis of papillary cystadenoma of the ovaries. In December 2010 the patient is diagnosed with widespread metastatic papillary cystadenocarcinoma. The slides from June 2010 are not reviewed and there is no physician statement saying the previous tumor was malignant. The date of diagnosis is December 2010.

7. Code the **date of death** as the date of diagnosis for autopsy-only cases

8. Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases: See the NAACCR Death Clearance Manual, pg 42, for coding instructions

9. **Estimate the date of diagnosis** if an exact date is not available. Use all information available to calculate the month and year of diagnosis.

   a. Estimating the **month**

      i. Code "spring" to April
      ii. Code "summer" or "middle of the year" to July
      iii. Code "fall" or "autumn" as October
      iv. For "winter" try to determine whether the physician means the first of the year or the end of the year and code January or December as appropriate. If no determination can be made, use whatever information is available to calculate the month of diagnosis.
      v. Code "early in year" to January
      vi. Code "late in year" to December
      vii. Use whatever information is available to calculate the month of diagnosis

Example 1: Admitted October 2010. History states that the patient was diagnosed 7 months ago. Subtract 7 from the month of admission and code date of diagnosis to March 2010

Example 2: Outpatient bone scan done January 2010 that states history of prostate cancer. The physician says the patient was diagnosed in 2010. Assume bone scan was part of initial work-up and code date of diagnosis to January 2010.

viii. Code the month of admission when there is no basis for estimation
ix. Leave month blank (or convert 99 to blank) if there is no basis for approximation

b. Estimating the **year**

i. Code "a couple of years" to two years earlier
ii. Code "a few years" to three years earlier
iii. Use whatever information is available to calculate the year of diagnosis
iv. Code the year of admission when there is no basis for estimation

Nursing Home and Hospice Residents (Not hospitalized for their cancer; no information other than nursing home or hospice records and/or death certificate)

1. Use the best approximation for the date of diagnosis when the only information available is that the patient **had cancer while in the nursing home** and it is unknown whether the patient had cancer when admitted.

2. Code the date of admission to the nursing home as the date of diagnosis when

   a. The only information available is that the patient **had cancer when admitted** to the nursing home

   b. The only information available is that the patient had cancer while in the nursing home, it is unknown whether the patient had cancer when admitted, and there is no basis for approximation.

Cases Diagnosed Before Birth

Record the actual date of diagnosis for diagnoses made in utero even though this date will precede the date of birth.

Example: Teratoma diagnosed via imaging at 37 weeks gestation (1/31/2010). Live birth by C-section 2/9/2010. Code the date of diagnosis as 01/31/2010.

DATE OF DIAGNOSIS FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 391
NAACCR Name: Date of Diagnosis Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that had been transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Diagnosis

Coding Instructions

Always leave blank. Date of Diagnosis will always have a full or partial date recorded.

SEQUENCE NUMBER-CENTRAL

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 380
NAACCR Name: Sequence Number--Central

Sequence Number-Central describes the number and sequence of all reportable malignant, in situ, benign, and borderline primary tumors that occur over the lifetime of a patient.

This sequence number counts all tumors that were reportable in the year they were diagnosed even if the tumors occurred before the registry existed or before the registry participated in the SEER Program. See coding instructions below.

While the Sequence Number-Hospital (NAACCR Item #560) may be useful in determining Sequence Number-Central, the two sequence numbers do not have to be identical.

Rules for Determining Multiple Primaries and the reportability requirements for each diagnosis year should be used to decide which primaries need to be sequenced.

In Situ/Malignant as Federally Required based on Diagnosis Year

Code	Description
00	One primary in the patient's lifetime
01	First of two or more primaries
02	Second of two or more primaries
..	..
..	(Actual number of this primary)
..	..
35	Thirty-fifth of thirty-five or more primaries
99	Unspecified or unknown sequence number of Federally required in situ or malignant tumors. Sequence number 99 can be used if there is a malignant tumor and its sequence number is unknown. (If there is known to be more than one malignant tumor, then the tumors must be sequenced.)

Non-malignant Tumor as Federally Required based on Diagnosis Year

Code	Description
60	Only one non-malignant tumor or central registry-defined neoplasm
61	First of two or more non-malignant tumors or central registry-defined neoplasms
62	Second of two or more non-malignant tumors or central registry-defined neoplasms
..	..
87	Twenty-seventh of twenty-seven
88	Unspecified or unknown sequence number of non-malignant tumor or central-registry defined neoplasms. (Sequence number 88 can be used if there is a non-malignant tumor and its sequence number is unknown. If there is known to be more than one non-malignant tumor, then the tumors must be sequenced.)
98	Cervix carcinoma in situ (CIS/CIN III, Diagnosis Years 1996-2002)

Type of Neoplasm/Sequence Number Series

Neoplasm	Sequence Number--Central
	Numeric Series
Series 1: In situ/malignant as federally required	00-35,99
All in situ (behavior code 2): Cervix CIS, CIN III (diagnosis year before 1996) All other in situ including VIN III, VAIN III, AIN III	00-35
Malignant (behavior code 3)	
Juvenile astrocytoma (diagnosis year 2001 and later)*	
Invasive following in situ – new primary defined by SEER	
Unspecified Federally required sequence number or unknown	99
Series 2: Non-malignant tumor as federally required or state or regional registry defined **	60-87,88
Examples:	
Non-malignant tumor/benign brain	60-87
Borderline ovarian (diagnosis year 2001+)	60-87
Other borderline/benign	60-87
Skin SCC/BCC	60-87
PIN III (diagnosis year 2001+)	60-87
Cervix CIS/CIN III (diagnosis year 2003+)	60-87
Unspecified non-malignant tumor or central registry-defined sequence number	88
Cervix CIS/CINIII (diagnosis year 1996-2002)	98

*Juvenile astrocytomas should be reported as 9421/3.
**Series 2 - The only tumors in Series 2 that SEER requires are benign/borderline intracranial and central nervous system (CNS) tumors.

Note: Conversion Guidance: The sequence numbers for neoplasms whose histologies were associated with behavior codes that changed from in situ/malignant to benign/borderline or vice versa during the conversion from ICD-O-2 to ICD-O-3 should not be changed.

In situ/Malignant Coding Instructions

1. Count all previous and current in situ/malignant reportable primaries which occur(red) over the lifetime of the patient, regardless of where he/she lived at diagnosis

    a. A 'reportable' primary refers to the site/histology /behavior of the tumor and the years for which its reporting was required. Review of the reportability requirements in effect during the diagnosis year will be needed.

2. Code 00 when there is only one primary in the patient's lifetime

3. Sequence in situ/malignant primaries chronologically as 01 (first of one or more), 02 (second primary), 03 (third primary), and assign the appropriate sequence number to all primaries in the database when there are multiple primaries.

Example 1: The patient has a history of breast cancer in 1999. She has colon cancer in 2010. Assign sequence number 02 to the colon cancer.

Example 2: In 1987, patient was diagnosed and treated for childhood leukemia in another state. After becoming a resident of a SEER region, the patient develops bladder cancer. The SEER registry assigns a sequence number of 02 to the bladder cancer. Document the first diagnosis in a text field.

a. Change the sequence number of the first primary from 00 to 01 when one patient has a primary with sequence 00 and then develops another reportable /2 or /3 primary

***Exception*:** There are certain cancers that were only reportable for some years. The following are some examples (not a complete list):

- Borderline tumors of the ovary were reported for 1992-2000
- Reporting cervix in situ was required only before 1996 diagnosis year
- Refractory anemia is reported only for 2001+
- Myelodysplastic syndromes are reported only for 2001+
- Three newly reportable hematopoietic neoplasms as of 1/1/2010

Example 1: The patient was diagnosed with carcinoma in situ of the cervix in 1994. In 2010 the patient was diagnosed with lung cancer. The SEER registry assigns a sequence number of 01 to the carcinoma in situ of the cervix and a sequence number of 02 to the lung cancer.

Example 2: The patient was diagnosed with carcinoma in situ of the cervix in 2003. In 2010 the patient was diagnosed with lung cancer. The SEER registry is not required to collect the 2003 carcinoma in situ of the cervix and assigns a sequence number of 00 to the lung cancer.

4. Assign the lower sequence number to the primary with the worse prognosis when **two primaries are diagnosed simultaneously**

   a. Base the prognosis decision on the primary site, histology, and extent of disease for each of the primaries.

   b. If there is no difference in prognosis, the sequence numbers may be assigned in any order.

Non-Malignant Coding Instructions

1. Include all non-malignant primary tumors of the brain/CNS diagnosed in 2004 and forward regardless of where the patient lived at diagnosis

2. Assign sequence number 60 when there are no prior or subsequent non-malignant brain/CNS tumors
   a. The sequence number is 60 when a patient has **no** prior reportable non-malignant tumors. If a tumor has a sequence 60 and there is another reportable non-malignant tumor, change the sequence number of the first primary is changed from 60 to 61.

3. Assign sequence numbers in chronological order according to the order in which they occur(red). Reportable benign and borderline brain tumors are restricted to primary site codes C700-C729, C751-C753 with behavior codes of /0 or /1.

   a. Sequence multiple non-malignant tumors chronologically as 61 (first of two or more), 62 (second), etc.

4. Sequence a non-malignant brain/CNS tumor and a malignant brain/CNS tumor (2 or /3) independently when one patient has both. The non-malignant tumor has a sequence number of 60 and the malignant (/2 or /3) tumor has a sequence number of 00.

5. Sequence tumors other than those required by SEER in the 60-87 range when a registry chooses to collect additional tumors. These additional tumors are often referred to as "Reportable by agreement."

   Example: Cervix in situ was diagnosed in 2003 and lung cancer was diagnosed in 2010. The cervix in situ, if collected by the registry, would be a sequence number 60 and the lung would be assigned a sequence number of 00.

PRIMARY SITE

Item Length: 4
NAACCR Item #: 400
NAACCR Name: Primary Site

For cases diagnosed 1-1-2001 and later, code the primary site using the topography codes listed in the *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology*, Third Edition (ICD-O-3).

The ICD-O-3 has topography codes listed in two sections; the first is a numeric listing by code number, the second is an alphabetic listing by anatomic site. The topography code consists of a lead character (the letter 'C') followed by two numeric digits, a decimal point, and then one additional numeric digit. The decimal point is not entered as part of the code.

Example: The pathology report says the primary site is the cardia of the stomach. The code (C16.0) is found in the Alphabetic Index under either "stomach" or "cardia." Enter the code as C160; do not record the decimal point.

Coding Instructions for Solid Tumors

Site-Specific Topography Terms

See the Coding Guidelines for Topography and Morphology in the introduction of the ICD-O-3 for additional details

1. Unless otherwise instructed, use all available information to code the site.

2. Code the **site** in which the **primary tumor originated**, **even if it extends onto/into an adjacent subsite**

   Example 1: Final diagnosis is adenocarcinoma of the upper lobe of the right lung. Code the topography to lung, upper lobe (C341).

   Example 2: The patient has a 4 cm tumor in the right breast. The tumor originated in the upper inner quadrant and extends into the lower inner quadrant. Code the primary site to upper inner quadrant of breast (C502).

   Example 3: Patient has a right branchial cleft cyst; the pathology report identifies an adenocarcinoma arising in an ectopic focus of thyroid tissue within the branchial cleft cyst. Thyroidectomy pathology is negative. Code the primary site to branchial cleft (C104).

   Example 4: The patient had a total hysterectomy with a bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy ten years ago for non-cancer reasons. She now has widespread cystadenocarcinoma in the peritoneum. Code the primary site to peritoneum, NOS (C482). (The chart may or may not state that the patient has extra-ovarian carcinoma.)

   Example 5: Pathology report shows adenocarcinoma arising in a patch of endometriosis on the sigmoid colon. Code the primary site to sigmoid colon (C187), the site in which the cancer originated.

3. Code the last digit of the primary site code to '8' when a **single tumor overlaps** an adjacent **subsite**(s) of an organ and the point of origin cannot be determined.

Example: The patient has a 5cm tumor that involves the dorsal surface and anterior 2/3 of tongue. Code the primary site to C028 (overlapping lesion of tongue).

4. Code the site of the **invasive** tumor when there is an invasive tumor and in situ tumor in different subsites of the same anatomic site.

   Example 1: Patient has an invasive breast tumor in the upper-outer quadrant of the left breast and in situ tumor in multiple quadrants of the left breast. Code the primary site to C504 (upper outer quadrant of breast).

   Example 2: Patient has in situ Paget disease of the right nipple and invasive duct carcinoma of the lower inner quadrant of the right breast. Code the primary site to C503 (lower inner quadrant).

5. Code the last digit of the primary site code to '9' for **single primaries**, when **multiple tumors arise** in **different subsites** of the same anatomic site and the point of origin cannot be determined.

   Example 1: During a TURB, the physician describes multiple papillary tumors in the bladder neck (C675) and the lateral wall of the bladder (C672). Code the primary site as bladder, NOS (C679).

   Example 2: Patient has an infiltrating duct tumor in the upper outer quadrant (C504) of the right breast and another infiltrating duct carcinoma in the lower inner (C503) quadrant of the right breast. Code the primary site as breast, NOS (C509).

6. Some histology/behavior terms in ICD-O-3 have a **related site code** in parentheses; for example: Hepatoma (C220).

   a. Code the site as documented in the medical record and ignore the suggested ICD-O-3 code when a primary site is specified in the medical record.

      Example: The pathology report says "infiltrating duct carcinoma of the head of the pancreas." The listing in ICD-O-3 is infiltrating duct carcinoma 8500/3 (C50_). Code the primary site to head of pancreas (C250), NOT to breast (C50_) as suggested by the ICD-O-3.

   b. Use the site code suggested by ICD-O-3 when the primary site is the same as the site code suggested or the primary site is unknown

      Example 1: The biopsy is positive for hepatoma, and no information is available about the primary site. Code the primary site to liver (C220) as suggested by ICD-O-3.

      Example 2: An excision of the right axillary nodes reveals metastatic infiltrating duct carcinoma. The right breast is negative. The ICD-O-3 shows infiltrating duct carcinoma (8500) with a suggested site of breast (C50_). Code the primary site as breast, NOS (C509).

7. Code the primary site, not the metastatic site. If a tumor is metastatic and the primary site is unknown, code the primary site as unknown (C809).

8. Code C422 (Spleen) as the primary site for angiosarcoma of spleen with mets to bone marrow.

9. Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST): Code the primary site to the location where the malignant GIST originated.

10. When the medical record does **not** contain **enough information** to assign a primary site:

    a. Consult a physician advisor to assign the site code.

    b. Use the NOS category for the organ system or the Ill-Defined Sites (C760-C768) if the physician advisor cannot identify a primary site.

    c. Code Unknown Primary Site (C809) if there is not enough information to assign an NOS or Ill-Defined Site category.

Esophagus

Two independent systems divide the esophagus into three subsites. The first system divides the esophagus into the upper third, middle third, and lower third. The second system describes the subsites as the cervical esophagus, thoracic esophagus, and abdominal esophagus. The subsites for these two different systems are not identical. Assign the ICD-O-3 topography code that describes the primary site documented in the medical record. See Appendix C for illustrated descriptions of each system.

Kaposi Sarcoma

Kaposi sarcoma that is not AIDS-related is a rare condition. It usually presents as localized disease with an easily recognized primary site.

AIDS-related Kaposi sarcoma usually presents as a disseminated disease with involvement of mucosal surfaces, visceral surfaces of organs, and skin. It is important to review consecutive records carefully to determine the extent of involvement at diagnosis. Review of a single record may reveal only the site being treated during that admission.

1. Code the Kaposi sarcoma to the **primary site in which it arises.**

2. If the Kaposi sarcoma is present in **the skin and another site** simultaneously, code to the specified skin site, (C44_).

3. If the **primary site is unknown** or cannot be determined, code skin, NOS (C449).

Sarcoma

The majority of sarcomas arise in mesenchymal or connective tissues that are located in the musculoskeletal system, which includes the fat, muscles, blood vessels, deep skin tissues, nerves, bones, and cartilage. The default code for sarcomas of unknown primary site is C499 rather than C809.

Sarcomas may also arise in the walls of hollow organs and in the viscera covering an organ. Code the primary site to the organ of origin.

Example: The pathology identifies a carcinosarcoma of the uterine corpus. Code the primary site to corpus uteri (C549).

Coding Instructions for Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms (9590/3-9992/3

See the *Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual* and the Hematopoietic Database (DB) for instructions on coding the primary site for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms.

LATERALITY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 410
NAACCR Name: Laterality

Laterality describes the side of a paired organ or side of the body on which the reportable tumor originated. Determine whether laterality should be coded for each primary.

Starting with cases diagnosed January 1, 2004, and later, laterality is coded for select invasive, benign, and borderline primary intracranial and CNS tumors.

Code	Description
0	Not a paired site
1	Right: origin of primary
2	Left: origin of primary
3	Only one side involved, right or left origin unspecified
4	Bilateral involvement at time of diagnosis, lateral origin unknown for a single primary; or both ovaries involved simultaneously, single histology; bilateral retinoblastomas; bilateral Wilms tumors
5	Paired site: midline tumor (effective with 1/1/2010 dx)
9	Paired site, but no information concerning laterality

Coding Instructions

1. Code laterality using codes 1-9 for all sites listed in the following table: **Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded**

    a. Laterality **may** be coded for sites other than those required; for example, thyroid.

2. Code the side where the primary tumor originated

    a. Assign **code 3** if the laterality is not known but the tumor is confined to a single side of the paired organ.

    Example: Pathology report: Patient has a 2 cm carcinoma in the upper pole of the kidney. Code laterality as 3 because there is documentation that the disease exists in only one kidney, but it is unknown if the disease originated in the right or left kidney.

3. Code 4 is seldom used EXCEPT for the following

    i. Both ovaries involved simultaneously, single histology
    ii. Diffuse bilateral lung nodules
    iii. Bilateral retinoblastomas
    iv. Bilateral Wilms tumors

4. Assign **code 5** when tumor originates in the midline of a paired organ or site.

    Example 1: Patient has an excision of a melanoma located just above the umbilicus.

    Example 2: Patient has a midline meningioma of the cerebral meninges.

5. Assign **code 9** when the disease originated in a paired site and

a. Laterality is unknown
   AND
b. There is no statement that only one side of the paired organ is involved.

Example 1: Admitting history says patient was diagnosed with lung cancer based on positive sputum cytology. Patient is treated for painful bony metastases. There is no information about laterality in the diagnosis of this lung cancer.

Example 2: Widely metastatic ovarian carcinoma surgically debulked. Ovaries could not be identified in the specimen.

Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded

ICD-O-3 Code	Site or Subsite
C079	Parotid gland
C080	Submandibular gland
C081	Sublingual gland
C090	Tonsillar fossa
C091	Tonsillar pillar
C098	Overlapping lesion of tonsil
C099	Tonsil, NOS
C300	Nasal cavity (excluding nasal cartilage, nasal septum)
C301	Middle ear
C310	Maxillary sinus
C312	Frontal sinus
C340	Main bronchus (excluding carina)
C341-C349	Lung
C384	Pleura
C400	Long bones of upper limb, scapula, and associated joints
C401	Short bones of upper limb and associated joints
C402	Long bones of lower limb and associated joints
C403	Short bones of lower limb and associated joints
C413	Rib, clavicle (excluding sternum)
C414	Pelvic bones (excluding sacrum, coccyx, symphysis pubis)
C441	Skin of the eyelid
C442	Skin of the external ear
C443	Skin of other and unspecific parts of the face
C445	Skin of the trunk
C446	Skin of upper limb and shoulder
C447	Skin of the lower limb and hip
C471	Peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system of upper limb and shoulder
C472	Peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system of the lower limb and hip
C491	Connective, subcutaneous, and other soft tissues of upper limb and shoulder
C492	Connective, subcutaneous, and other soft tissues of the lower limb and hip
C500-C509	Breast
C569	Ovary

ICD-O-3 Code	Site or Subsite
C570	Fallopian tube
C620-C629	Testis
C630	Epididymis
C631	Spermatic cord
C649	Kidney, NOS
C659	Renal pelvis
C669	Ureter
C690-C699	Eye and adnexa
C700	Cerebral meninges, NOS (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C710	Cerebrum (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C711	Frontal lobe (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C712	Temporal lobe (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C713	Parietal lobe (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C714	Occipital lobe (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C722	Olfactory nerve (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C723	Optic nerve (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C724	Acoustic nerve (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C725	Cranial nerve, NOS (Effective with cases diagnosed 1/1/2004)
C740-C749	Adrenal gland
C754	Carotid body

Note: A laterality code of 1-4 or 9 **must** be assigned for the above sites except as noted. If the site is not listed on the table, code 0 may be assigned for laterality. Laterality **may** be coded for sites other than those required above. For example: Code 2 may be assigned for a tumor originating in the left lobe of thyroid.

DIAGNOSTIC CONFIRMATION

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 490
NAACCR Name: Diagnostic Confirmation

This data item records the best method used to confirm the presence of the cancer being reported. The best method could occur at any time throughout the entire course of the disease. It is not limited to the confirmation at the time of initial diagnosis.

Note: The codes and instructions for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms are different from the codes for solid tumors. See below.

Codes for Solid Tumors

Microscopically Confirmed

Code	Description
1	Positive histology
2	Positive cytology
4	Positive microscopic confirmation, method not specified

Not Microscopically Confirmed

Code	Description
5	Positive laboratory test/marker study
6	Direct visualization without microscopic confirmation
7	Radiology and other imaging techniques without microscopic confirmation
8	Clinical diagnosis only (other than 5, 6, or 7)

Confirmation Unknown

Code	Description
9	Unknown whether or not microscopically confirmed; death certificate only

Coding Instructions for Solid Tumors

1. The codes are in **priority order**; code 1 has the highest priority. Always code the procedure with the lower numeric value when presence of cancer is confirmed with multiple diagnostic methods.

2. Change to a lower code, if at ANY TIME during the course of disease the patient has a diagnostic confirmation with a higher priority.

   Example: Benign brain tumor diagnosed on MRI. Assign diagnostic confirmation code 7. Patient later becomes symptomatic and the tumor is surgically removed. Change diagnostic confirmation code to 1.

3. Assign **code 1** when the microscopic diagnosis is based on

   a. Tissue specimens from biopsy, frozen section, surgery, autopsy or D&C

   b. Bone marrow specimens (aspiration and biopsy)

4. Assign **code 2** when the microscopic diagnosis is based on

a. Examination of cells (rather than tissue) including but not limited to: sputum smears, bronchial brushings, bronchial washings, prostatic secretions, breast secretions, gastric fluid, spinal fluid, peritoneal fluid, pleural fluid, urinary sediment, cervical smears, or vaginal smears

b. Paraffin block specimens from concentrated spinal, pleural, or peritoneal fluid

5. Assign **code 4** when there is information that the diagnosis of cancer was microscopically confirmed, but the type of confirmation is unknown.

6. Assign **code 5** when the diagnosis of cancer is based on laboratory tests or marker studies that are clinically diagnostic for that specific cancer.

   Example 1: The presence of alpha-fetoprotein for liver cancer

   Example 2: If the workup for a prostate cancer patient is limited to a highly elevated PSA and the physician diagnoses and/or treats the patient based only on that PSA, code the diagnostic confirmation to 5.

7. Assign **code 6** when the diagnosis is based only on
   a. The surgeon's operative report from a surgical exploration or endoscopy such as colonoscopy, mediastinoscopy, or peritoneoscopy and no tissue was examined

   b. Gross autopsy findings (no tissue or cytologic confirmation)

8. Assign **code 7** when the only confirmation of malignancy was diagnostic imaging such as computerized axial tomography (CT scans), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI scans), or ultrasounds/sonography.

9. Assign **code 8** when the case was diagnosed by any clinical method not mentioned in preceding codes. The diagnostic confirmation is coded 8 when the only confirmation of disease is a physician's clinical diagnosis.

   Example: CT diagnosis is possible lung cancer. Patient returns to the nursing home with a DNR order. Physician enters a diagnosis of lung cancer in the medical record. Code the diagnostic confirmation to 8: there is a physician's clinical diagnosis – clinical diagnosis made by the physician using the information available for the case.

10. Assign **code 9**

    a. When it is unknown if the diagnosis was confirmed microscopically

    b. For death-certificate-only cases

Codes for Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms (9590/3-9992/3)

Microscopically confirmed

Code	Description
1	Positive histology
2	Positive cytology
3	Positive histology PLUS: (ONLY for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms (**9590/3-9992/3).** Effective for cases diagnosed 1/1/2010 and later) • Positive immunophenotyping AND/OR • Positive genetic studies
4	Positive microscopic confirmation, method not specified

Not Microscopically Confirmed

Code	Description
5	Positive laboratory test/marker study
6	Direct visualization without microscopic confirmation
7	Radiology and other imaging techniques without microscopic confirmation
8	Clinical diagnosis only (other than 5, 6, or 7)

Confirmation Unknown

Code	Description
9	Unknown whether or not microscopically confirmed; death certificate only

Coding Instructions for Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms (9590/3-9992/3)

1. There is no priority order or hierarchy for coding the Diagnostic Confirmation for hematopoietic or lymphoid neoplasms. Most commonly the specific histologic type is determined through immunophenotyping or genetic testing.

   Note: See the glossary in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual* for definitions of immunophenotyping and genetic testing.

2. See the Hematopoietic DB for information on the definitive diagnostic confirmation method(s) for the specific neoplasm being abstracted.

3. Assign **code 1** when the microscopic diagnosis is based on

   a. Tissue specimens from biopsy, frozen section, surgery, or autopsy

   b. Bone marrow specimens (aspiration and biopsy)

   c. For leukemias only, complete blood count (CBC), white blood count (WBC), and peripheral blood smear

      Note: Use code 1 when ONLY the tissue, bone marrow, or blood was used to diagnose the specific histology. Do **not** use code 1 if the diagnosis was based on immunophenotyping or genetic testing using tissue, bone marrow, or blood.

4. **Code 2** would rarely be used for hematopoietic or lymphoid neoplasms. Use code 2 when the microscopic diagnosis is based on

   a. Examination of cells (other than tissue) including but not limited to: spinal fluid, peritoneal fluid, or pleural fluid

   b. Paraffin block specimens from concentrated spinal, pleural, or peritoneal fluid

5. Assign **code 3** when BOTH a histology positive for cancer AND also positive immunophenotyping and/or positive genetic testing are available.

   Example 1: Bone marrow examination is positive for acute myeloid leukemia (9861/3). Genetic testing shows AML with inv(16)(p13.1q22) (9871/3). Code the Diagnostic Confirmation 3, positive histology and positive genetic testing.

   Example 2: Skin biopsy positive for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, NOS (9709/3) Immunophenotyping shows CD8 positive. Diagnosis is primary cutaneous CD 8 positive

aggressive epidermitropic T-cell lymphoma (9709/3). Code the Diagnostic Confirmation 3, positive histology and positive genetic testing.

6. Assign **code 4** when there is information that the diagnosis of cancer was microscopically confirmed, but the type of confirmation is unknown.

7. Assign **code 5** when the diagnosis of a hematopoietic or lymphoid neoplasm is based ONLY on laboratory tests or marker studies that are diagnostic for that specific cancer.

   Note: See the glossary in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual* for definitions of immunophenotyping and genetic testing which are marker studies for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms.

   Example: The only information available is that the patient had a positive JAK2 done on a blood sample and is diagnosed with polycythemia vera. Code 5 for diagnosis based on a marker study that is diagnostic for polycythemia vera.

8. Assign **code 6** when the diagnosis is based only on
   a. The surgeon's operative report from a surgical exploration or endoscopy and no tissue was examined

   b. Gross autopsy findings (no tissue or cytologic confirmation)

9. Assign **code 7** when the only confirmation of malignancy was diagnostic imaging such as computerized axial tomography (CT scans), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI scans), or ultrasounds/sonography.

10. Assign **code 8** when the case was diagnosed by any clinical method not mentioned in the preceding codes. A number of hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms are diagnosed clinically; these are called "diagnoses of exclusion" (the tests for the disease are equivocal and the physician does a clinical diagnosis based on the information from the equivocal tests and the patient's clinical presentation).

    Note: The hematopoietic DB will identify clinical diagnosis as the definitive diagnostic method

11. Assign **code 9**

    a. When it is unknown if the diagnosis was confirmed microscopically

    b. For death-certificate-only cases

MORPHOLOGY

Item Length: 5
NAACCR Item #: 521
NAACCR Name: Morph—Type&Behav ICD-O-3

This data item combines Histologic Type ICD-O-3 [NAACCR Item #522] with Behavior Code [NAACCR Item #523] for cases diagnosed after 1/1/2001. See the detailed instructions for data items Histologic Type ICD-O-3 (#522) and Behavior Code (#523) in this manual.

HISTOLOGIC TYPE ICD-O-3

Item Length: 4
NAACCR Item #: 522
NAACCR Name: Histologic Type ICD-O-3

The data item Histologic Type ICD-O-3 describes the microscopic composition of cells and/or tissue for a specific primary.

The *2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules*, the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual*, the Hematopoietic Database, and the *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology*, Third Edition (ICD-O-3) are the standard references for histology codes.

Histology coding for Solid Tumors

Apply the general instructions and instructions for coding histologic type in the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules* manual.

Apply the site-specific histology coding rules in the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules* manual.

Site-specific histology coding rules cover the following:

- Head and neck — C000-C148, C300-C329
- Colon — C180-C189
- Lung — C340-C349
- Melanoma — C440-C449 with Histology 8720-8780
- Breast — C500-C509
- Kidney — C649
- Ureter/Renal pelvis/Bladder — C659, C669, C670-C679, C680-C689
- Benign brain — C700, C701, C709, C710-C719, C720-C725, C728, C729, C751-C753
- Malignant brain — C700, C701, C709, C710-C719, C720-C725, C728, C729, C751-C753
- Other sites — Excludes Head and Neck, Colon, Lung, Melanoma of Skin, Breast, Kidney, Renal Pelvis, Ureter, Bladder, Brain

Histology Coding for Hematopoietic and Lymphatic Primaries

Apply the Histology Coding Rules in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual*.

BEHAVIOR CODE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 523
NAACCR Name: Behavior Code ICD-O-3

The data item Behavior Code describes the malignant potential of the tumor, ranging from /0 benign to /3 malignant (invasive).

Behavior is the fifth digit of the morphology code after the slash (/). See ICD-O-3 (pages 27-28) for a discussion of behavior.

Code	Description
0	Benign (Reportable for intracranial and CNS sites only)
1	Uncertain whether benign or malignant, borderline malignancy, low malignant potential, and uncertain malignant potential (Reportable for intracranial and CNS sites only)
2	Carcinoma in situ; intraepithelial; noninfiltrating; noninvasive
3	Malignant, primary site (invasive)

Coding Instructions

Intracranial and CNS tumors

Intracranial and CNS tumors with behavior codes 0 (benign) and 1 (borderline malignancy) are reportable beginning with January 1, 2004 diagnoses.

Code the behavior from CT scan, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), or Positron Emission Tomography (PET) report when there is no tissue diagnosis (pathology or cytology report). Code the behavior listed on the scan.

Metastatic or Nonprimary Sites

Cases reported to SEER cannot have a metastatic (/6) behavior code. If the only pathologic specimen is from a **metastatic** site, code the appropriate histology code and the malignant behavior code /3. The primary site and its metastatic site(s) have the same histology.

In situ

Clinical evidence alone cannot identify the behavior as in situ; a behavior code of /2 (in situ) must be based on pathologic examination and documentation.

In situ and Invasive

Code the behavior as malignant (/3) if any portion of the primary tumor is invasive no matter how limited; i.e. microinvasion.

Example: Pathology from mastectomy: Large mass composed of intraductal carcinoma with a single focus of invasion. Code the behavior as malignant (/3).

ICD-O-3 Histology/Behavior Code Listing

The pathologist has the final say on the behavior of the tumor. ICD-O-3 may have only one behavior code, in situ (/2) or malignant (/3), listed for a specific histology. If the pathology report describes the

histology as in situ and the ICD-O-3 histology code is listed only with a malignant behavior code (/3), assign the in situ behavior code (/2). If the pathology report describes histology as malignant and the ICD-O-3 histology code is listed only with an in situ behavior code (/2), assign the malignant behavior code (/3). See the Morphology and Behavior Code Matrix discussion on page 29 in ICD-O-3.

Example: The pathology report says large cell carcinoma in situ. The ICD-O-3 lists large cell carcinoma only with a malignant behavior (8013/3). Code the histology and behavior as 8013/2 as specified by the pathologist.

Synonyms for in situ

AIN III (C211)
Behavior code '2'
Bowen disease (not reportable for C440-C449)
Clark level I for melanoma (limited to epithelium)
Confined to epithelium
Hutchinson melanotic freckle, NOS (C44_)
Intracystic, non-infiltrating
Intraductal
Intraepidermal, NOS
Intraepithelial, NOS
Involvement up to, but not including the basement membrane
Lentigo maligna (C44_)
Lobular, noninfiltrating (C50_)
Noninfiltrating
Noninvasive
No stromal invasion/involvement
Papillary, noninfiltrating or intraductal
Precancerous melanosis (C44_)
Queyrat erythroplasia (C60_)
Stage 0 (except Paget's disease (8540/3) of breast and colon or rectal tumors confined to the lamina propria)
VAIN III (C529)
VIN III (C51_)

GRADE, DIFFERENTIATION OR CELL INDICATOR

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 440
NAACCR Name: Grade

Grade, Differentiation (Codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 9)

Note: These instructions pertain to the data item Grade, Differentiation or Cell Indicator. Refer to the *Collaborative Stage Data Collection Manual* for instructions on coding collaborative stage site-specific factors.

Pathologic testing determines the grade, or degree of differentiation, of the tumor. For cancers, the grade is a measurement of how closely the tumor cells resemble the parent tissue (organ of origin). Well differentiated tumor cells closely resemble the tissue from the organ of origin. Poorly differentiated and undifferentiated tumor cells are disorganized and abnormal looking; they bear little or no resemblance to the tissue from the organ of origin. These similarities/differences may be based on pattern (architecture), cytology, or nuclear features; or a combination of these elements depending upon the grading system that is used. The information from this data item is useful for determining prognosis and treatment.

Pathologists describe the tumor grade using three systems or formats

1. Two levels of similarity; also called a two-grade system (may be used for colon, for example)
2. Three levels of similarity; also called a three-grade system
3. Four levels of similarity; also called a four-grade system. The four-grade system describes the tumor as
    a. Grade I; also called well differentiated
    b. Grade II; also called moderately differentiated
    c. Grade III; also called poorly differentiated
    d. Grade IV; also called undifferentiated or anaplastic

Cell Indicator (Codes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Cell Indicator (Codes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) describes the lineage or phenotype of the cell. These codes are used only for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms.

Code	Description
1	Grade I; grade i; grade 1; well differentiated; differentiated, NOS
2	Grade II; grade ii; grade 2; moderately differentiated; moderately well differentiated; intermediate differentiation
3	Grade III; grade iii, grade 3; poorly differentiated; dedifferentiated
4	Grade IV; grade iv; grade 4; undifferentiated; anaplastic
5	T-cell; T-precursor
6	B-Cell; Pre-B; B-precursor
7	Null cell; Non T-non B
8	NK cell (natural killer cell)
9	Grade/differentiations unknown, not stated, or not applicable

Coding Rules for Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms

Apply the Grade of Tumor Rules in the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual*.

General Coding Rules for Solid Tumors

1. The site-specific coding guidelines in Appendix C include instructions for coding grade for the following primary sites/histologies: colon, breast, prostate, kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, bladder, urethra, astrocytoma, and sarcoma. Site-specific instructions take priority over general instructions.

2. Record the tumor grade from the pathology or cytology report **prior** to neoadjuvant treatment

    a. Code grade as 9 when
        i. No grade is specified on the pathology reporting findings from cytology or tissue assessment prior to adjuvant treatment

    Or

        ii. The pathology report from cytology or tissue assessment prior to neoadjuvant treatment is not available

3. Code the grade from the **primary tumor** only, never from a metastatic site or a recurrence

4. If more than one grade is recorded for a single tumor, code the highest grade, even if it is a focus.

    Example: Pathology report reads: Grade II adenocarcinoma with a focus of undifferentiated adenocarcinoma. Code the tumor grade as grade 4.

5. Differentiation has priority over nuclear grade when both are specified.

    Example: Liver biopsy histology described as "well differentiated hepatocellular carcinoma, nuclear grade 2/4." Code the tumor grade as grade 1.

6. Code the grade of the invasive component when the tumor has **both in situ** and **invasive** portions. If the **invasive** component **grade** is **unknown**, code the grade as unknown (9).

7. Do **not code** the grade assigned to **dysplasia**

    Example: High grade dysplasia (adenocarcinoma in situ). Code to 9 (unknown grade).

8. Do not code grade based on the FNCLCC (Federation Nationale des Centres de Lutte Contre le Cancer) grade. The FNCLCC grade is collected in one of the Collaborative Stage Site Specific Factors.

9. Code to 9 (unknown grade) when the primary site is unknown.

Coding Grade for Cases without Pathology or Cytology Confirmation

Code the grade of tumor given on a CT scan, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or Positron Emission Tomography (PET) report only if there is no tissue diagnosis (pathology or cytology report).

In situ Tumors

In situ tumors are not always graded. Code the grade if it is specified for an in situ lesion unless there is an invasive component. Record the grade from the invasive component when the tumor has both in situ and invasive components.

Terminology Conversion Table

Description	Grade	SEER Code
Differentiated, NOS	I	1
Well differentiated	I	1
Fairly well differentiated	II	2
Intermediate differentiation	II	2
Low grade	I-II	2
Mid differentiated	II	2
Moderately differentiated	II	2
Moderately well differentiated	II	2
Partially differentiated	II	2
Partially well differentiated	I-II	2
Relatively or generally well differentiated	II	2
Medium grade, intermediate grade	II-III	3
Moderately poorly differentiated	III	3
Moderately undifferentiated	III	3
Poorly differentiated	III	3
Relatively poorly differentiated	III	3
Relatively undifferentiated	III	3
Slightly differentiated	III	3
Dedifferentiated	III	3
High grade	III-IV	4
Undifferentiated, anaplastic, not differentiated	IV	4
Non-high grade		9

Two-Grade System

Some cancers are graded using a two-grade system, for example, colon cancer. If the grade is written as 2/2 this means a grade 2 of a two-grade system. Do not simply code the numerator. Use the two-grade conversion table to assign a grade code.

Two-Grade Conversion Table

Grade	Differentiation / Description	SEER Code
1/2, I/II	Low grade	2
2/2, II/II	High grade	4

Three-Grade System

A three-grade system is used for several sites, such as peritoneum, endometrium, fallopian tube, prostate, bladder and soft tissue sarcoma. The patterns of cell growth are measured on a scale of 1 (low grade), 2

(medium grade), and 3 (high grade). This system measures the proportion of cancer cells that are growing and making new cells and how closely they resemble the cells of the host tissue. Thus, it is similar to a four-grade system but simply divides the spectrum into 3, rather than 4, categories (see Three-Grade Conversion Table below). The expected outcome is more favorable for lower grades.

If grade is written as 2/3, this means grade 2 of a three-grade system. Do not simply code the numerator. Use the following table to convert the grade to SEER codes:

Three-Grade Conversion Table

Grade	Differentiation / Description	SEER Code
1/3, I/III	Low grade	2
2/3, II/IIII	Intermediate grade	3
3/3, III/III	High grade	4

Note: Do not use this table for breast primaries. See Appendix C, Coding Guidelines for Breast for instructions.

MULTIPLICITY COUNTER

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 446
NAACCR Name: Multiplicity Counter

This data item is used to count the number of tumors (multiplicity) reported as a single primary. Do not count metastatic tumors. Use the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules* manual multiple primary rules for the specific site to determine whether the tumors are a single primary or multiple primaries.

Code	Description
01	One tumor only
02	Two tumors present; bilateral ovaries involved with cystic carcinoma
03	Three tumors present
..	
..	
88	Information on multiple tumors not collected/not applicable for this site
99	Unknown if multiple tumors; not documented

Coding Instructions

1. Code the number of tumors being abstracted as a single primary.
2. Use any part of the medical record to obtain information on the number of tumors; source of information is **not** limited to the pathology report final diagnosis.
3. Do not count tumors documented as metastases
4. Include foci in the multiplicity counter when there is a tumor or tumors with separate **measured** single or multiple foci
    a. Ignore/do not count **un**measured foci
    b. Record the number of foci that are measured when the tumor is multifocal or multicentric
    c. Assign code 99 when the tumor is multifocal or multicentric and the foci of tumor are not measured
5. Include measured satellite lesions in the multiplicity counter
    a. Ignore/do not count **un**measured satellite lesions
6. Use code 01 when
    a. There is a single tumor in the primary site
    b. There is a single tumor with separate **un**measured foci of tumor

    Example: Pathology from colon resection shows a 3 cm adenocarcinoma in the ascending colon. Biopsy of liver shows a solitary metastatic lesion compatible with the colon primary. Record 01 in Multiplicity Counter (do not count the metastatic lesion).
7. Use code 02 when
    a. The tumor is multifocal or multicentric and there are **two** measured foci

b. There is a **single tumor** with separate multiple foci and **one** focus is measured

Example 1: The patient has a 2 cm infiltrating duct carcinoma in the LIQ and a 1 cm infiltrating duct carcinoma in the UIQ of the left breast. Accession as a single primary in accordance with the multiple primary rules, and code 02 in Multiplicity Counter.

Example 2: A single breast primary composed of both in situ and invasive disease. Measurements are provided for both the invasive and in situ components. Code the multiplicity counter 02 because there are individual measurements for each of these tumors.

Example 3: Pathology report for debulking: Cystadenocarcinoma, right and left ovaries. Biopsy of peritoneal implants positive for metastatic cystadenocarcinoma. Code 02 (Two tumors present; bilateral ovaries involved with cystadenocarcinoma). Do not include tumors stated to be metastases in the multiplicity counter.

8. Use codes 00-87 and code 99 for solid tumors including the following sites and histologies

    a. Ill-defined sites (C760-C768)
    b. Plasmacytoma, NOS (9731/3)(solitary myeloma)
    c. Plasmacytoma, extramedullary (9734/3) (not occurring in bone)
    d. Mast cell sarcoma (9740)
    e. Malignant histiocytosis (9750)
    f. Langerhans cell histiocytosis (9751/3)
    g. Histiocytic sarcoma (9755)
    h. Langerhans cell sarcoma (9756)
    i. Dendritic cell sarcoma (9757, 9758)
    j. Myeloid sarcoma (9930)

9. Use code 88 for

    a. Leukemia (9800-9920, 9931-9948, 9963, 9964)

    b. Lymphoma (9590-9729, 9735-9738)

    c. Immunoproliferative disease and certain other hematopoietic neoplasms (9732, 9733, 9741, 9742, 9759, 9760, 9761, 9762, 9764,9950, 9960,9961. 9962, 9965, 9966, 9967, 9971, 9975, 9980, 9982, 9983, 9984, 9985, 9986, 9987, 9989, 9991, 9992)

    d. Unknown primary (C809)

10. Use code 99 when

    a. The original pathology report is not available and the documentation does not specify whether there was a single or multiple tumors in the primary site

    b. The tumor is described only as diffuse or disseminated

    c. The tumor is described as multifocal or multicentric and the number of tumors is unknown.

    d. The operative or pathology report describes multiple tumors but does not give an exact number.

e. It is unknown if there is a single tumor or multiple tumors and the multiple primary rules instructed you to default to a single tumor.

f. The number of tumors is not specified for prostate primaries, including those with positive biopsy results in different lobes of the prostate

Example: Prostate, positive biopsy of both lobes. No statement to indicate whether there is one or more nodules. Code the multiplicity counter 99.

g. The only information available for clinically inapparent prostate cancer is positive needle biopsy(ies)

11. Leave this field blank for cases diagnosed prior to 01/01/2007

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Coding Examples

Example 1: Patient has an excisional biopsy of the soft palate. The pathology shows clear margins. Record 01 in the Multiplicity Counter. Within six months another lesion is excised from the soft palate. Use the head and neck multiple primary rules to determine this tumor is not accessioned as a second primary. Change the Multiplicity Counter to code 02 to reflect the fact that there were two separate tumors abstracted as a single primary.

Example 2: CT of chest shows two lesions in the left lung and a single lesion in the right lung. Biopsy of the right lung lesion shows adenocarcinoma. No other workup is done. Review the multiple primary rules for lung. For lung ONLY, the tumors in the contralateral lung are assumed to be additional primary tumors. The case is abstracted as a single primary. Enter the number 03 in the data item Multiplicity Counter.

DATE OF MULTIPLE TUMORS

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 445
NAACCR Name: Date of Multiple Tumors

This data item is used to identify the month, day and year the patient is diagnosed with multiple tumors **reported as a single primary**. Use the multiple primary rules for that specific site to determine whether the tumors are a single primary or multiple primaries.

Date of Multiple Tumors must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date of Multiple Tumors may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year

Codes for Month

Code	Description
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July
08	August
09	September
10	October
11	November

Code	Description
12	December

Codes for Day

Code
01
02
03
..
..
31

Coding Instructions

1. Record the date of diagnosis when multiple tumors are present at diagnosis.

   Example 1: The patient has multiple tumors: a 2 cm infiltrating duct in the lower inner quadrant and a 1 cm infiltrating duct carcinoma in the upper inner quadrant of the left breast. According to the breast multiple primary rules, these tumors are accessioned as a single primary. Enter the date of diagnosis in Date of Multiple Tumors.

   Example 2: Operative report for TURB (transurethral resection of bladder) mentions multiple bladder tumors. Pathology report: Papillary transitional cell carcinoma present in tissue from bladder neck, dome, and posterior wall. According to the Bladder, Renal Pelvis, and Ureter multiple primary rules these tumors are accessioned as a single primary. Enter the date of diagnosis in Date of Multiple Tumors.

2. Record the date of diagnosis when

   a. The number of tumors is unknown (code 99 in Multiplicity Counter)

   b. It is unknown whether there is a single tumor or there are multiple tumors (code 99 in Multiplicity Counter)

   Example: Prostate biopsy performed 10/20/10, both lobes involved with tumor, unknown how many tumors. Enter the date of diagnosis (the date of the biopsy in this case) in Date of Multiple Tumors.

3. Record the earliest date that multiple tumors were diagnosed when subsequent tumor(s) are counted as the same primary.

   Example 1: Patient has an excisional biopsy of a single tumor in the soft palate on January 2, 2010. The pathology shows clear margins. Record 01 in Multiplicity Counter. On July 10, 2010 another tumor is excised from the soft palate. The multiple primary rules for head and neck state that this tumor is the same primary. Change the 01 in Multiplicity Counter to 02 and enter the date the second tumor was diagnosed (July 10, 2010) in Date of Multiple Tumors.

   Example 2: A single primary composed of multiple tumors of the breast is diagnosed on 02/23/10. Additional breast tumors diagnosed on 08/15/10 are determined to be the same primary. Date of multiple tumors is February 23, 2010. Do not update using the later date since multiple tumors were present initially.

4. Leave this field blank for cases diagnosed prior to 01/01/2007.

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Estimating Dates

Estimating the **month**

1. Code "spring of" to April
2. Code "summer" or "middle of the year" to July
3. Code "fall" or "autumn" as October
4. For "winter of," try to determine whether the physician means the first of the year or the end of the year and code January or December as appropriate. If no determination can be made, use whatever information is available to calculate the month.
5. Code "early in year" to January
6. Code "late in year" to December
7. Use whatever information is available to calculate the month
8. Code the month of admission when there is no basis for estimation
9. Leave month blank if there is no basis for approximation

Estimating the **year**

1. Code "a couple of years" to two years earlier
2. Code "a few years" to three years earlier
3. Use whatever information is available to calculate the year
4. Code the year of admission when there is no basis for estimation

DATE OF MULTIPLE TUMORS FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 439
NAACCR Name: Date of Mult Tumors Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Multiple Tumors
11	Not applicable	No proper value is applicable in this context
12	Unknown	A proper value is applicable but not known
15	Temporarily unavailable	Information is not available at this time, but it is expected that it will be available later

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this item blank when Date of Multiple Tumors has a full or partial date recorded
2. Assign code 11 when Multiplicity Counter is coded 88
3. Assign code 12 when the date of multiple tumors cannot be determined, and it is known that there are multiple tumors for this primary
4. Assign code 15 when Multiplicity Counter is coded 01
5. Change code 15 to blank or another code **the first time** the patient is diagnosed with multiple tumors that are determined to be the same primary; i.e. when Multiplicity Counter code is changed from 01 to 02-87 or 89.

TYPE OF MULTIPLE TUMORS REPORTED AS ONE PRIMARY

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 444
NAACCR Name: Mult Tum Rpt as One Prim

This data item is used to identify the type of multiple tumors that are abstracted as a single primary. Ignore metastatic tumors for this data item.

Code	Label	Description	Example(s) / Notes
00	Single tumor	All **single tumors.** Includes single tumors with both in situ and invasive components	Code 01 in the Multiplicity Counter
10	Multiple benign	At least two benign tumors in same organ/primary site	Use this code for nonmalignant tumors in **intracranial** and **CNS** sites. May also be used for reportable-by-agreement cases.
11	Multiple borderline	At least two borderline tumors in the same organ/primary site	Use this code for nonmalignant tumors in **intracranial** and **CNS** sites. May also be used for reportable-by-agreement cases.
12	Benign and borderline	At least one benign **AND** at least one borderline tumor in the same organ/ primary site	Use this code for nonmalignant tumors in **intracranial** and **CNS** sites. May also be used for reportable-by-agreement cases.
20	Multiple in situ	At least two in situ tumors in the same organ/primary site	Cystoscopy report documents multiple (or multicentric / multifocal) bladder tumors. Pathology: Flat transitional cell carcinoma of bladder.
30	In situ and invasive	One or more in situ tumor(s) **AND** one or more invasive tumors in the same organ/primary site	1. A single breast primary composed of in situ tumor(s) and invasive tumor(s) 2. Multiple polyps, some with non-invasive adenocarcinoma and some with invasive adenocarcinoma, all in the same segment of the colon
31	Polyp and adenocarcinoma	One or more polyps with either • In situ carcinoma or • invasive carcinoma **AND** one or more frank adenocarcinoma(s) in the same segment of colon, rectosigmoid, and/or rectum	
32	FAP with carcinoma	Diagnosis of familial polyposis (FAP) **AND** carcinoma (in situ or invasive) is present in at least one of the polyps	

Code	Label	Description	Example(s) / Notes
40	Multiple invasive	At least two invasive tumors in the same organ	1. Lung primary with multiple nodules identified on scans. Only one nodule is biopsied. For ***lung only***, it is assumed that all of the tumors are the same histology and that all are invasive. 2. Bladder tumors described as multicentric or multifocal. Pathology from TURB is invasive urothelial carcinoma.
80	Unk in situ or invasive	Multiple tumors present in the same organ/primary site, unknown if in situ or invasive	
88	NA	Information on multiple tumors not collected/not applicable for this site	Code 88 in Multiplicity Counter
99	Unk	Unknown	Code 99 in Multiplicity counter "Disseminated" or "Diffuse" with no further information

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 442
NAACCR Name: Ambiguous Terminology

This data item identifies all cases, including DCO and autopsy-only cases that are accessioned based only on ambiguous terminology (see the list of "ambiguous terms" below). Registrars are required to collect cases with ambiguous terminology and it is advantageous to be able to identify those cases in the database.

Code	Label	Definition	Time Frame	Examples
0	Conclusive term	A conclusive diagnosis was made within 60 days of the original diagnosis. Case was accessioned based on conclusive terminology. Includes all diagnostic methods such as clinical diagnosis, cytology, pathology, etc.	Within 60 days of the date of initial diagnosis.	1. Adenocarcinoma in TURP chips. 2. Mammogram suspicious for DCIS. Excisional biopsy 1 week later positive for DCIS.
1	Ambiguous term only	The case was accessioned based only on ambiguous terminology. No conclusive terminology was documented during the 60 days following the initial diagnosis. Includes all diagnostic methods except cytology. ***Note:*** Cytology is excluded because registrars are not required to collect cases with ambiguous terms describing a cytology diagnosis.	N/A	1. Chest MRI shows a malignant-appearing lesion in the right upper lobe. Patient refused further workup or treatment. 2. Pt with elevated PSA admitted for TRUS. Pathology final diagnosis: consistent with adenocarcinoma. No further information is available
2	Ambiguous term followed by conclusive term	The case was originally assigned a code 1 (was accessioned based only on ambiguous terminology). More than 60 days after the initial diagnosis, a conclusive diagnosis was made by any diagnostic method including clinical diagnosis, cytology, pathology, autopsy, etc.	Sixty (60) days or more after the date of diagnosis	Biopsy of the thyroid reads: most likely thyroid cancer. Coded 1 in Ambiguous Terminology (Ambiguous term only).Three months later a biopsy is positive for papillary follicular cancer. Change the code to 2, (Ambiguous term followed by conclusive term).

(Table continues)

Code	Label	Definition	Time Frame	Examples
9	Unknown term	There is no information about ambiguous terminology.	N/A	Code 9 should seldom be used because the registrar knows why the case was accessioned • There was a conclusive diagnosis of malignancy (assign code 0 or 2) **OR** • The reportable histology was described by one of the ambiguous terms, such as probable or most likely (assign code 1)

Definitions

Phrase	Definition	Examples
Ambiguous terminology	Terms mandated as reportable when used in a diagnosis. See the reportable list below for a complete listing of those terms. See reportability section of this manual, the *2010 Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding Manual*, or the *FORDS Manual* for detailed instructions on how to use the list.	**Clinical:** physician's statement that patient most likely has lung cancer. **Laboratory tests:** CBC suspicious for leukemia. **Pathology:** prostate biopsy compatible with adenocarcinoma
Conclusive terminology	A clear and definite statement of cancer. The statement may be from a physician (clinical diagnosis); or may be from a laboratory test, autopsy, cytologic findings, and/or pathology	**Clinical:** physician's statement that the patient has lung cancer. **Laboratory tests:** CBC diagnostic of acute leukemia. **Cytologic findings:** FNA (fine needle aspiration) with findings of infiltrating duct carcinoma of the breast. **Pathology:** colon biopsy showing adenocarcinoma

Ambiguous terms that are reportable

Apparent(ly)
Appears
Comparable with
Compatible with
Consistent with
Favor(s)
Malignant appearing
Most likely
Presumed

Probable
Suspect(ed)
Suspicious (for)
Typical (of)

Coding Instructions

1. Use **Code 0** when a case is accessioned based on conclusive terminology. The diagnosis is based on clear and definite terminology describing the malignancy within 60 days of the original diagnosis.

   Note: Usually the patient undergoes a diagnostic work-up because of a suspicion of cancer (ambiguous terminology). For example, a mammogram may show calcifications suspicious for intraductal carcinoma; the date of the mammogram is the date of initial diagnosis. When there is a clear and definite diagnosis within 60 days of that mammogram (date of initial diagnosis) such as the pathology from an excisional biopsy showing intraductal carcinoma, assign code 0.

2. Use **Code 1** when a case is accessioned based on ambiguous terminology and no definitive terminology is used to describe the malignancy within 60 days of the date of initial diagnosis. The diagnosis may be from a pathology report, a radiology report, an imaging report, or on the medical record.

3. Use **Code 2** when a case is accessioned based on ambiguous terminology followed by definitive terminology more than 60 days after the initial diagnosis.

   a. Follow-back to a physician or subsequent readmission (following the initial 60 day period) may eventually confirm cancer. Assign **Code 2**

      Example: Prostate biopsy with diagnosis of probable adenocarcinoma. Two years later, another biopsy is performed with diagnosis of prostate adenocarcinoma. Assign code 2 (Ambiguous term followed by conclusive term).

4. Leave this data item blank for cases diagnosed prior to 01/01/2007.

Note: Cases accessioned based on ambiguous terminology (**Code 1**) should be excluded from case selection in research studies. Direct patient contact is not recommended.

DATE OF CONCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 443
NAACCR Name: Date of Conclusive DX

For those cases originally accessioned based on ambiguous terminology only, this data item documents the date of a definite statement of malignancy. The abstractor will change the code for the data item "Ambiguous Terminology" from a 1 to a 2 and enter the date that the malignancy was described definitively in Date of Conclusive Terminology.

Date of Conclusive Terminology must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date of Conclusive Terminology may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year of conclusive terminology. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year of conclusive terminology

Codes for Month

Code	Description
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July
08	August
09	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

Codes for Day

Code
01
02
03
..
..
31

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this field blank for cases diagnosed prior to 01/01/2007

Estimating Dates

Estimating the **month**

1. Code “spring of” to April
2. Code “summer” or “middle of the year” to July
3. Code “fall” or “autumn” as October
4. For “winter of,” try to determine whether the physician means the first of the year or the end of the year and code January or December as appropriate. If no determination can be made, use whatever information is available to calculate the month.
5. Code “early in year” to January
6. Code “late in year” to December
7. Use whatever information is available to calculate the month
8. Code the month of admission when there is no basis for estimation
9. Leave month blank if there is no basis for approximation

Estimating the **year**

1. Code “a couple of years” to two years earlier
2. Code “a few years” to three years earlier
3. Use whatever information is available to calculate the year
4. Code the year of admission when there is no basis for estimation

DATE OF CONCLUSIVE DIAGNOSIS FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 448
NAACCR Name: Date Conclusive DX Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 9's to indicate "unknown" for year, month or day is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Conclusive Diagnosis
10	No information	No information whatsoever can be inferred
11	Not applicable	No proper value is applicable in this context
12	Unknown	A proper value is applicable but not known
15	Temporarily unavailable	Accessioned based on ambiguous terminology only

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this item blank if Date of Conclusive Diagnosis has a full or partial date recorded
2. Assign code 10 when it is unknown whether the diagnosis was based on ambiguous terminology (Ambiguous Terminology coded 9 and Date of Conclusive Diagnosis is blank)
3. Assign code 11 when the case was diagnosed originally, or within 60 days of initial diagnosis, using **un**ambiguous terminology (Ambiguous Terminology coded 0)
4. Assign code 12 when the date of conclusive diagnosis cannot be determined. The case was originally diagnosed using ambiguous terminology, was conclusively diagnosed more than 60 days later, and the date of conclusive diagnosis is unknown (Ambiguous Terminology coded 2 and Date of Conclusive Diagnosis is blank).
5. Assign code 15 when the case was diagnosed using ambiguous terminology and no conclusive (unambiguous) diagnosis followed (Ambiguous Terminology coded 1)

ICD-O-2 CONVERSION FLAG

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1980
NAACCR Name: ICD-O-2 Conversion Flag

For cases diagnosed 2001 and forward, this computer-generated code reflects how the conversion of site and morphology codes from ICD-O-3 to ICD-O-2 was accomplished. The original ICD-O-3 code is retained.

Code	Description
5	Morphology converted from ICD-O-3 to ICD-O-2 without review
6	Morphology converted from ICD-O-3 to ICD-O-2 with review
Blank	Not converted

ICD-O-3 CONVERSION FLAG

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2116
NAACCR Name: ICD-O-3 Conversion Flag

This is a computer-generated code specifying how the conversion of site and morphology codes from ICD-O-2 to ICD-O-3 was accomplished.

Code	Description
0	Morphology (Morph--Type&Behav ICD-O-3) originally coded in ICD-O-3
1	Morphology (Morph--Type&Behav ICD-O-3) converted from (Morph--Type&Behav ICD-O-2) without review
3	Morphology (Morph--Type&Behav ICD-O-3) converted from (Morph--Type&Behav ICD-O-2) with review
Blank	Not converted

SEER SUMMARY STAGE 1977

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 760
NAACCR Name: SEER SUMMARY STAGE 1977

This data item is required only for SEER registries that elect to have SEER submit their data to NAACCR. Tumors diagnosed before January 1, 2001, should be assigned a summary stage according to *SEER Summary Staging Guide*.

SEER Summary Stage 1977 is limited to information available within 2 months of the date of diagnosis.

Note: See also the data item Derived SS21977 [NAACCR Item #3010] for the value of SEER Summary Stage 1977 as generated by the Collaborative Staging algorithm.

Data may be submitted using either manually entered SEER Summary Stage 1977 code or a Collaborative Stage-generated code.

Code	Description
0	In situ
1	Localized
2	Regional, direct extension only
3	Regional, regional lymph nodes only
4	Regional, direct extension and regional lymph nodes
5	Regional, NOS
7	Distant
8	Not applicable
9	Unstaged

SEER SUMMARY STAGE 2000

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 759
NAACCR Name: SEER SUMMARY STAGE 2000

This data item is required only for SEER registries that elect to have SEER submit their data to NAACCR. Tumors diagnosed January 1, 2001, or after should be assigned a summary stage according to *SEER Summary Staging Manual 2000*.

Summary Stage 2000 should include all information available through completion of surgery(ies) in the first course of treatment or within 4 months of diagnosis in the absence of disease progression, whichever is longer.

Note: See also the data item Derived SS2000 [NAACCR Item #3020] for the value of SEER Summary Stage 2000 as generated by the Collaborative Staging algorithm.

Data may be submitted using either manually entered SEER Summary Stage 2000 code or Collaborative Stage - generated code.

Code	Description
0	In situ
1	Localized
2	Regional, direct extension only
3	Regional, direct extension and regional lymph nodes
4	Regional, regional lymph nodes only
5	Regional, NOS
7	Distant
8	Not applicable
9	Unstaged

SECTION VI
FIRST COURSE OF THERAPY

For all diseases (including benign and borderline malignancy intracranial & CNS tumors) except leukemia and hematopoietic diseases

Definitions

Active Surveillance: See Watchful Waiting

Cancer tissue: Proliferating malignant cells; an area of active production of malignant cells. Cancer tissue includes primary tumor and metastatic sites where cancer tissue grows. Cells in fluid such as pleural fluid or ascitic fluid are not "cancer tissue" because the cells do not grow and proliferate in the fluid.

Disease recurrence: For solid tumors, see the *Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules* manual and for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms see the *Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Case Reportability and Coding* manual and the Hematopoietic database to determine disease recurrence.

First course of therapy: All treatments administered to the patient after the original diagnosis of cancer in an attempt to destroy or modify the cancer tissue. See below for detailed information on timing and treatment plan documentation requirements.

Palliative treatment: The World Health Organization describes palliative care as treatment that improves the quality of life by preventing or relieving suffering. Palliative therapy is also part of the first course of therapy when the treatment destroys or modifies cancer tissue. Palliative therapy may also be part of the first course of therapy if it destroys proliferating cancer tissue.

Example: The patient was diagnosed with stage IV cancer of the prostate with painful boney metastases. The patient starts radiation treatment intended to shrink the tumor in the bone and relieve the intense pain. The radiation treatments are palliative because they relieve the bone pain; the radiation is also first course of therapy because it destroys proliferating cancer tissue.

Surgical Procedure: Any surgical procedure coded in the fields Surgery of Primary Site, Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery, or Surgery of Other Regional or Distant Sites.

Treatment: Procedures that destroy or modify primary (primary site) or secondary (metastatic) cancer tissue.

Treatment failure: The treatment modalities did not destroy or modify the cancer cells. The tumor either became larger (disease progression) or stayed the same size after treatment.

Watchful waiting: A treatment option for patients with slow, indolent diseases, such as prostate cancer. The physician closely monitors the patient and delays treatment until the patient becomes symptomatic or exhibits other signs of disease progression, such as rising PSA. Also referred to as Active Surveillance.

Treatment Timing

Use the following instructions **in hierarchical order**.

1. Use the **documented** first course of therapy (treatment plan) from the medical record. First course of therapy ends when the treatment plan is **completed**. (No matter how long it takes to complete the plan).

Example 1: First course of treatment for childhood leukemia typically spans two years from induction, progressing to consolidation, and then to maintenance.

Example 2: The first course of therapy for a breast cancer patient is surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. The patient completes surgery and chemotherapy. Bone metastases are diagnosed before the radiation was started. The physician says that the patient will start the radiation treatment as planned. Code the radiation as first course of therapy since it was given in agreement with the treatment plan and the treatment plan was not changed as a result of disease progression.

2. First course of therapy ends when there is documentation of disease progression, recurrence, or treatment failure.

   Example 1: The documented treatment plan for sarcoma is pre-operative (neoadjuvant) chemotherapy, followed by surgery, then radiation or chemotherapy depending upon the pathology from surgery. Scans show the tumor is not regressing after pre-operative chemotherapy. Plans for surgery are cancelled, radiation was not administered, and a different type of chemotherapy is started. Code only the first chemotherapy as first course. Do not code the second chemotherapy as first course because it is administered after documented treatment failure.

   Example 2: The documented treatment plan for a patient with locally advanced breast cancer includes mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiation to the chest wall and axilla, and hormone therapy. The patient has the mastectomy and completes chemotherapy. During the course of radiation therapy, the liver enzymes are rising. Workup proves liver metastases. The physician stops the radiation and does not continue with hormone therapy (the treatment plan is altered). The patient is placed on a clinical trial to receive Hercepton for metastatic breast cancer. Code the mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation as first course of treatment. Do not code the Hercepton as first course of therapy because it is administered after documented disease progression.

3. When there is **no documentation** of a treatment plan or progression, recurrence or a treatment failure, first course of therapy ends one year after the date of diagnosis. Any treatment given after one year is second course of therapy in the absence of a documented treatment plan or a standard of treatment.

Coding Instructions

1. Code all treatment fields to 00 (Not done) when physician decides to do **watchful waiting/active surveillance** for a patient who has prostate cancer. The first course of therapy is no treatment. When the disease progresses or the patient becomes symptomatic, any prescribed treatment is second course.

2. Code the treatment as first course of therapy if the patient refuses treatment but changes his/her mind and the prescribed treatment is implemented less than one year from the date of diagnosis, AND there is no evidence of disease progression.

3. The first course of therapy is **no treatmen**t when the patient **refuses** treatment. Code the treatment fields to Refused.

   a. Keep the refused codes even if the patient later changes his/her mind and decides to have the prescribed treatment
      i. more than one year after diagnosis
         OR
      ii. when there is evidence of disease progression before treatment is implemented

4. Code all treatment that was started and administered, whether completed or not.

   Example: The patient completed only the first dose of a planned 30-day chemotherapy regimen. Code chemotherapy as administered.

5. Code the treatment on both abstracts when a patient has multiple primaries and the treatment given for one primary also affects/treats the other primary.

   Example 1: The patient had prostate and bladder cancer. The bladder cancer was treated with a TURB. The prostate cancer was treated with radiation to the prostate and pelvis. The pelvic radiation includes the regional lymph nodes for the bladder. Code the radiation as treatment for both the bladder and prostate cases.

   Example 2: The patient had a hysterectomy for ovarian cancer. The pathology report reveals a previously unsuspected microinvasive cancer of the cervix. Code the hysterectomy as surgical treatment for both the ovarian and cervix primaries.

6. Code the treatments only for the site that is affected when a patient has multiple primaries and the treatment affects only one of the primaries.

   Example: The patient has colon and tonsil primaries. The colon cancer is treated with a hemicolectomy and the tonsil primary is treated with radiation to the tonsil and regional nodes. Do not code the radiation for the colon. Do not code the hemicolectomy for the tonsil.

7. Code the treatment given as first course even if the correct primary is identified later when a patient is diagnosed with an unknown primary.

   Example: The patient is diagnosed with metastatic carcinoma, unknown primary site. After a full course of chemotherapy, the primary site is identified as prostate. Code the chemotherapy as first course of treatment.

   a. Do not code treatment added to the plan when the primary site is discovered as first course. This is a change in the treatment plan.

      Example: The patient is diagnosed with metastatic carcinoma, unknown primary site. After a full course of chemotherapy, the primary site is identified as prostate. Hormonal treatment is started. Code the chemotherapy as first course of treatment. The hormone therapy is second course because it was not part of the initial treatment plan.

First Course for Leukemia and Hematopoietic Diseases

Leukemia

Leukemia is grouped or typed by how quickly the disease develops and worsens. **Chronic** leukemia gets worse **slowly**; **acute** leukemia, **quickly**.

Leukemias are also grouped by the **type** of **white blood cell** that is affected: **lymphoid** leukemia and **myeloid** leukemia.

Definitions

Consolidation: Repetitive cycles of chemotherapy given immediately after the remission.

Induction: Initial intensive course of chemotherapy.

Maintenance: Chemotherapy given for a period of months or years to maintain remission.

Remission: The bone marrow shows normal cellular characteristics (is normocellular), with less than 5% blasts, no signs or symptoms of the disease, no signs or symptoms of central nervous system leukemia or other extramedullary infiltration, and all of the following laboratory values within normal limits: white blood cell count and differential, hematocrit/hemoglobin level, and platelet count.

Treatment for leukemia is divided into **three phases**

1. Remission induction (chemotherapy and/or biologic response modifiers)
2. CNS prophylaxis or consolidation (irradiation to brain, chemotherapy)
3. Remission continuation or maintenance (chemotherapy or bone marrow transplants)

Coding First Course of Therapy for Leukemia and Hematopoietic Diseases

1. If a patient **has** a partial or complete **remission** during the first course of therapy
   a. Code all therapy that is "remission-inducing" as first course
   b. Code all therapy that is "consolidation" as first course
   c. Code all therapy that is "remission-maintaining" as first course

   Note: Do not record treatment given after the patient relapses (is no longer in remission)
2. Some patients do not have a remission. A change in the treatment plan indicates a failure to induce remission. If the patient does not have a remission:
   a. Record the treatment given in an attempt to induce a remission
   b. Do **not** record treatment administered after the change in treatment plan

Other Hematopoietic

Record all treatments as described above. The following treatments are coded as "other" in Other Treatment even though they do not "modify, control, remove, or destroy proliferating cancer tissue." Follow the guidelines in the Abstracting and Coding Guide for the Hematopoietic Diseases to identify treatments. Some examples of "other" treatment include:

Example 1: **Phlebotomy** may be called blood removal, blood-letting, or venisection.

Example 2: **Transfusions** may include whole blood, RBCs, platelets, plateletpheresis, fresh frozen plasma (FFP), plasmapheresis, and cryoprecipitate.

Example 3: **Aspirin** (also known as ASA, acetylsalicylic acid, or by a brand name) is used as a treatment for essential thrombocythemia.

a. Record aspirin therapy only if it is given to thin the blood for symptomatic control of thrombocythemia. Use the following guidelines to determine whether aspirin is administered for thinning of blood for thrombocythemia rather than for pain control or cardiovascular protection:

   i. Aspirin treatment for essential thrombocythemia is low dose, approximately 70-100 mg/day
   ii. The dosage for pain control is approximately 325-1000 mg every 3-4 hours.
   iii. Cardiovascular protection is usually one baby aspirin per day.

DATE THERAPY INITIATED

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 1260
NAACCR Name: Date of initial RX--SEER

Record the start date of the first course of therapy. This is the start date of any type of treatment for this tumor; surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or other types of therapy. Treatment may be given in a hospital or non-hospital setting.

Date Therapy Initiated must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date Therapy Initiated may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year for date therapy initiated. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year of date therapy initiated

Codes for Month

Code	Description
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July
08	August
09	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

Codes for Day

Code
01
02
03
..
..
31

Definition

Cancer-directed therapy: Treatment administered to the patient in an attempt to destroy or modify cancer tissue.

Coding Instructions

1. Code the **start date** of the first therapy. The first therapy may be recorded in the following data items:

    - Surgery of Primary Site
    - Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery
    - Surgical Procedure of Other Sites
    - Radiation Therapy
    - Chemotherapy
    - Hormone Therapy
        - Code the date that the prescription was written
    - Immunotherapy
    - Hematologic Transplant and Endocrine Procedures
    - Other Therapy

2. Code the date of **excisional biopsy** as the date therapy initiated when it is the first treatment. Code the date of a biopsy documented as incisional if further surgery reveals no residual or only microscopic residual.

    Example: Breast core needle biopsy with diagnosis of infiltrating duct carcinoma; subsequent re-excision with no residual tumor noted. Code the date of the needle biopsy as the excisional biopsy date.

3. Record the actual date of treatment when treatment is performed prior to birth. Record the type of treatment in the appropriate data item, for example, Surgery of Primary Site, or Radiation.

    Example: 1-3-2010 fetus diagnosed with malignant teratoma. The teratoma is resected in utero 1-10-2010. Live birth on 4-18-2010. Code the date therapy initiated as January 10, 2010.

4. Code the **date** unproven therapy was initiated as the date therapy initiated.

5. Code the date of admission to the hospital for inpatient or outpatient treatment when the exact date of the first treatment is **unknown.**

6. Leave blank

    a. When it is known the patient had first course therapy, but it is impossible to estimate the date

b. When it is unknown whether the patient had treatment

c. Autopsy only cases

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Estimating Dates

Estimating the **month**

1. Code "spring of" to April
2. Code "summer" or "middle of the year" to July
3. Code "fall" or "autumn" as October
4. For "winter of," try to determine whether the physician means the first of the year or the end of the year and code January or December as appropriate. If no determination can be made, use whatever information is available to calculate the month.
5. Code "early in year" to January
6. Code "late in year" to December
7. Use whatever information is available to calculate the month
8. Code the month of admission when there is no basis for estimation
9. Leave month blank if there is no basis for approximation

Estimating the **year**

1. Code "a couple of years" to two years earlier
2. Code "a few years" to three years earlier
3. Use whatever information is available to calculate the year
4. Code the year of admission when there is no basis for estimation

DATE THERAPY INITIATED FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1261
NAACCR Name: Date of Initial RX Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Initial Treatment
10	No information	No information whatsoever can be inferred
11	Not applicable	No proper value is applicable in this context
12	Unknown	A proper value is applicable but not known

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this item blank if Date of Initial Treatment has a full or partial date recorded
2. Assign code 10 when it is unknown whether any treatment was administered
3. Assign code 11 when the initial diagnosis was at autopsy
4. Assign code 12 if the Date of Initial Treatment cannot be determined, and the patient did receive first course treatment

TREATMENT STATUS

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1285
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Treatment Status

Treatment Status documents active surveillance (watchful waiting). Before this data item was implemented, active surveillance or watchful waiting was deduced from the codes in each of the treatment fields.

This data item is effective for cases diagnosed January 1, 2010 and later.

Code	Label	Definition
0	No treatment given	The patient did not receive any treatment
1	Treatment given	The patient received treatment
2	Active surveillance (watchful waiting)	The patient was under active surveillance or watchful waiting during the first course of treatment
9	Unknown if treatment given	It is unknown whether or not the patient received treatment

Coding Instructions

1. Leave blank for cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2010

SURGERY OF PRIMARY SITE

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1290
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Surg Prim Site

Surgery of Primary Site describes a surgical procedure that removes and/or destroys tissue of the primary site that is performed as part of the initial diagnostic and staging work-up or first course of therapy. Site-specific surgery codes are included under Appendix C of this manual.

General Coding Structure (See Appendix C for site-specific codes)

Code	Description
00	None; no surgical procedure of primary site; diagnosed at autopsy only
10-19	Site-specific codes. Tumor destruction; no pathologic specimen or unknown whether there is a pathologic specimen
20-80	Site-specific codes. Resection; pathologic specimen
90	Surgery, NOS. A surgical procedure to the primary site was done, but no information on the type of surgical procedure is provided.
98	Special codes for hematopoietic, reticuloendothelial, immunoproliferative, myeloproliferative diseases; ill-defined sites; and unknown primaries (See site-specific codes for the sites and histologies), except death certificate only
99	Unknown if surgery performed

Coding Instructions

1. Code 00 if **no surgery** is performed on the primary site or if case was diagnosed at **autopsy; excludes all sites and histologies that would be coded as 98**.

2. Use the site-specific coding scheme corresponding to the primary site or histology.

3. Code the most **invasive, extensive, or definitive** surgery if the patient has multiple surgical procedures of the primary site even if there is no residual tumor found in the pathologic specimen from the more extensive surgery.

   Example: Patient has a needle biopsy of prostate that is positive for adenocarcinoma. The patient chooses to have a radical prostatectomy. The pathologic examination of the prostatectomy specimen shows no residual tumor. Code the radical prostatectomy.

4. Code an **excisional biopsy**, even when documented as **incisional**, when:
   a. All disease is removed (**margins free**) OR
   b. All gross disease is removed and there is only microscopic residual at the margin

   Note: Do not code an excisional biopsy when there is macroscopic residual disease.

5. Code total **removal of the primary site** when a previous procedure resected a portion of the site and the current surgery removed the rest of the organ. The previous procedure may have been cancer directed or non-cancer directed surgery.

6. Code the removal of regional or distant **tissue/organs** when they are resected in continuity with the primary site (**en bloc**) and that regional organ/tissue is listed in the Surgery of Primary Site codes. Specimens from an en bloc resection may be submitted to pathology separately.

   Example: Code an en bloc removal when the patient has a hysterectomy and an omentectomy.

7. Code surgery for extra-lymphatic lymphoma using the site-specific surgery coding scheme (not lymph node scheme) for the primary site.

8. Code **80** or **90** only when there is no specific information.

9. Code **98** for the following sites unless the case is death certificate only:

    a. Hematopoietic, reticuloendothelial, immunoproliferative, or myeloproliferative disease
        i. Primary sites: C420, C421, C423, or C424 (all histologies)
        ii. Histologies: 9727, 9733, 9740-9742, 9764-9809, 9832, 9840-9931, 9945-9946, 9950-9967, 9975-9992 (all sites)

    b. Unknown or ill-defined sites (C760-C768, C809) (all histologies)

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

SCOPE OF REGIONAL LYMPH NODE SURGERY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1292
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Scope Reg LN Sur

Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery describes the procedure of removal, biopsy, or aspiration of **regional** lymph nodes performed during the initial work-up or first course of therapy.

Code	Description
0	No regional lymph nodes removed or aspirated; diagnosed at autopsy.
1	Biopsy or aspiration of regional lymph node, NOS
2	Sentinel lymph node biopsy [only]
3	Number of regional lymph nodes removed unknown, not stated; regional lymph nodes removed, NOS
4	1 to 3 regional lymph nodes removed
5	4 or more regional lymph nodes removed
6	Sentinel node biopsy and code 3, 4, or 5 at same time or timing not noted
7	Sentinel node biopsy and code 3, 4, or 5 at different times
9	Unknown or not applicable

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **Code 0** when regional lymph node removal procedure was **not** performed.

2. Code regional lymph node procedures in this data item. Record distant lymph node removal in Surgical Procedure of Other Site.

    a. Include lymph nodes that are coded as regional in the Collaborative Stage Data Collection System.

    Example: Melanoma with no primary skin site identified. One axillary lymph node removed revealing melanoma. No other tumors found. The axillary lymph node is coded as regional for CS lymph node coding. Include this lymph node in Scope of Regional LN Surgery

3. Code the procedure that is numerically higher. Codes 1-7 are **hierarchical**.

4. Record all surgical procedures that remove, biopsy, or aspirate regional lymph node(s) whether or not there were any surgical procedures of the primary site. The regional lymph node surgical procedure(s) may be done to **diagnose** cancer, **stage** the disease, or as a part of the initial **treatment**.

    Example: Patient has a sentinel node biopsy of a single lymph node. Assign code 2 (Sentinel lymph node biopsy [only]).

5. Include lymph nodes obtained or biopsied during any procedure within the first course of treatment. A separate lymph node surgery is not required.

    a. Code the removal of intra-organ lymph nodes in Scope of Regional LN Surgery.

    Example: Local excision of breast cancer. Specimen includes an intra-mammary lymph node. Code Patient has a sentinel node biopsy of a single lymph node. Assign code 4 (1 to 3 regional lymph nodes removed).

6. Add the number of all of the lymph nodes removed during each surgical procedure performed as part of the first course of treatment. The Scope of Regional Lymph Node field is **cumulative**.

   Example: Patient has excision of a positive cervical node. The pathology report from a subsequent node dissection identifies three cervical nodes. Assign code 5 (4 or more regional lymph nodes removed).

   a. Lymph node aspirations
      i. Do not double-count when a regional lymph node is aspirated and that node is in the resection field. Do not add the aspirated node to the total number.
      ii. Count as an additional node when a regional lymph node is aspirated and that node is NOT in the resection field. Add it to the total number.

7. Code the Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery to 0 (No lymph nodes removed) when the operative report lists a lymph node dissection, but **no nodes were found by the pathologist**.

8. Code the removal of regional nodes for both primaries when the patient has **two primaries with common regional lymph nodes**.

   Example: Patient has a cystoprostatectomy and pelvic lymph node dissection for bladder cancer. Pathology identifies prostate cancer as well as the bladder cancer and 4/21 nodes positive for metastatic adenocarcinoma. Code Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery to 5 (4 or more regional lymph nodes removed) for both primaries.

9. Assign **code 9** for

   a. Primary sites

      i. Brain (C700-C709) OR
      ii. Spinal cord (C710-C719) OR
      iii. Cranial nerves and other parts of the central nervous system (C720-C729, C75.1-C75.3)
      iv. Unknown or ill-defined sites (C760-C768, C809) (all histologies)

   b. Lymphoma with primary site in lymph nodes (C770-C779) AND

      i. 9590-9597 OR
      ii. 9650-9719 OR
      iii. 9724-9738

   c. Hematopoietic, reticuloendothelial, immunoproliferative, or myeloproliferative disease

      i. Primary sites: C420, C421, C423, or C424 (all histologies)
      ii. Histologies: 9750, 9760-9764, 9800-9820, 9826, 9831-9920, 9931-9992 (all sites)

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

SURGICAL PROCEDURE OF OTHER SITE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1294
NAACCR Name: Rx Summ--Surg Oth Reg/Dis

Surgical Procedure of Other Site describes the surgical removal of distant lymph node(s) or other tissue(s) or organ(s) beyond the primary site.

Code	Description
0	None; diagnosed at autopsy
1	Non-primary surgical procedure performed
2	Non-primary surgical procedure to other regional sites
3	Non-primary surgical procedure to distant lymph node(s)
4	Non-primary surgical procedure to distant site
5	Combination of codes 2, 3, or 4
9	Unknown

Coding Instructions

1. Code 0 when no surgical procedures were performed that removed distant lymph node(s) or other tissue(s) or organ(s) beyond the primary site.

2. The codes are **hierarchical**.

    a. Codes 1-5 have priority over codes 0 and 9

3. Assign code 1

    a. When any surgery is performed to remove tumors and the primary site is unknown or ill-defined (C76.0-76.8, C80.9)

    b. For hematopoietic, reticuloendothelial, immunoproliferative, or myeloproliferative disease (C42.0, C42.1, C42.3, C42.4 or M-9740-9992)

4. Do not code tissue or organs such as an appendix that were removed **incidentally**, and the organ was not involved with cancer.

Note: Incidental removal of organs means that tissue was removed for reasons other than removing cancer or preventing the spread of cancer. Examples of incidental removal of organ(s) would be removal of appendix, gallbladder, etc., during abdominal surgery.

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

REASON FOR NO SURGERY OF PRIMARY SITE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1340
NAACCR Name: Reason for No Surgery

No surgery of the primary site was performed. This data item records the reason that surgical resection was not part of the first-course of treatment.

Code	Description
0	Surgery of the primary site **was performed**
1	Surgery of the primary site was **not** performed because it was **not part of the planned** first-course treatment
2	Surgery of the primary site was **not** recommended/performed because it was **contraindicated** due to patient risk factors (comorbid conditions, advanced age, etc.)
5	Surgery of the primary site was **not** performed because the patient **died prior to** planned or recommended surgery
6	Surgery of the primary site was **not** performed; it was **recommended** by the patient's physician, but was not performed as part of the first course of therapy. **No reason** was noted in the patient's record.
7	Surgery of the primary site was **not** performed; it was **recommended** by the patient's physician, but was **refused** by the patient, the patient's family member, or the patient's guardian. The refusal was noted in the patient record.
8	Surgery of the primary site was **recommended**, but it is **unknown if it was performed**. Further follow up is recommended.
9	It is **unknown** if surgery of the primary site was **recommended or performed**; autopsy-only cases.

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **code 0** when Surgery of Primary Site is coded in the range of 10-90 (surgery of the primary site was performed)

2. Assign a code in the **range of 1-8** if Surgery of Primary Site is coded 00 or 98.

    a. Referral to a surgeon is equivalent to a recommendation for surgery.

    b. Assign **code 1** when

        a. There is no information in the patient's medical record about surgery **AND**

            i. It is known that surgery is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer **OR**
            ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had surgery of primary site.

        b. The treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include surgery of the primary site.

            Example: Prostate cancer patient is offered three treatment options: a. Radical prostatectomy, b. Radiation therapy, or c. Hormone therapy. The patient chose to have radiation therapy. Assign code 1. Surgery of the primary site was not performed because it was **not part of the planned** first-course treatment. The treatment plan was for the patient to receive **ONE** of three treatment modality options: surgery OR radiation OR hormone therapy. At no time did the physician recommend that the patient have surgery

AND radiation therapy AND hormone therapy. The patient chose radiation. This does not mean he refused surgery because at no time did the treatment plan include both radiation AND surgery. Recording that a patient refused the treatment modality means that the patient refused recommended therapy. This is a quality control check explaining why the patient did not receive the expected treatment for their cancer (patient's choice versus physician's choice, or facility's lack of providing quality care).

c. Patient elected to pursue no treatment following the discussion of surgery. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

d. Watchful waiting/active surveillance (prostate)

c. Assign **code 6** when

- It is **KNOWN** that surgery was recommended
  AND
- It is **KNOWN** that surgery was **not** performed
  AND
- There is no documentation explaining why surgery was not done

Example: The medical record has a recommendation that the patient have surgery. No further admissions or documentation of surgery found; the primary care physician replies that the patient did **NOT have surgery. No further information is given; it is unknown if the patient refused surgery or if there were co-morbid conditions that prevented the surgical procedure.**

d. Assign **code 7** when the patient

i. Refuses recommended surgery
   Or
ii. Makes a blanket statement that he/she refused all treatment when surgery is a customary option for the primary site/histology

1. Assign code 1 when surgery is not normally performed for the site/histology

Note: Coding Reason for No Surgery of Primary Site as "refused" does not affect the coding of the other treatment fields (e.g. Radiation, Chemotherapy, Hormone Therapy, etc.). Code 7 means surgery is exactly what was recommended by the physician and the patient refused. If two treatment alternatives were offered and surgery was not chosen, code Reason no surgery of primary site as 1 [Surgery of the primary site was not performed because it was not part of the planned first-course treatment].

e. Assign **code 8** when surgery is recommended, but it is unknown if the patient actually had the surgery.

Example: There is documentation in the medical record that the primary care physician referred the patient to a surgical oncologist. Follow-back to the surgical oncologist and primary care physician yields no further information. Assign code 8, it is known that surgery was recommended but there is no information on whether or not the patient actually had the surgical procedure.

Note: Review cases coded 8 periodically for later confirmation of surgery

iii. Assign **code 9**

a. When there is no documentation that surgery was recommended or performed

b. Autopsy only

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions.

RADIATION

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1360
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Radiation

Record the method or source of radiation administered as a part of the first course of treatment. Record all radiation that is given as part of first course therapy, even if it is palliative.

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) does not require the collection of the radiation summary data field effective 1/1/2002. If this data item is not reported by a CoC hospital, SEER central registries can generate the code for this field by combining information from the **Regional Treatment Modality and/or Boost Treatment** fields required by CoC. Tables for deriving the radiation summary field are included in this section.

Code	Description
0	None; diagnosed at autopsy
1	Beam radiation
2	Radioactive implants
3	Radioisotopes
4	Combination of 1 with 2 or 3
5	Radiation, NOS – method or source not specified
7	Patient or patient's guardian refused radiation therapy
8	Radiation recommended, unknown if administered
9	Unknown if radiation administered

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **code 0** when

    a. There is no information in the patient's medical record about radiation AND

        i. It is known that radiation is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had radiation

    b. The treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include radiation

    c. Patient elected to pursue no treatment following the discussion of radiation treatment. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Watchful waiting/active surveillance (prostate)

    e. Patient diagnosed at autopsy

    f. Radiotherapy recommended, but patient died before receiving radiotherapy

    Note: SEER does not collect the Reason For No Radiation field. However, those who abstract using software that captures this data item can identify these cases.

2. Assign **code 1** for
    a. Beam radiation directed to cancer tissue. The source of the beam radiation is not coded. Sources may include, but are not limited to: X-ray, cobalt, linear accelerator, neutron

beam, betatron, spray radiation, stereotactic radiosurgery such as gamma knife, and proton beam.

b. Total body irradiation (TBI) prior to a bone marrow transplant

3. Assign **code 2** when the radiation is delivered by interstitial implant, molds, seeds, needles or intracavitary applicators. The radioactive material used in implants includes, but is not limited to: cesium, radium, radon, radioactive gold, and iodine.

   Example: Brachytherapy with 125 seeds. Assign code 2. Seeds are always low dose therapy because they are left in place and the radioactivity decays over time.

4. Assign **code 3** when radioactive isotopes are given orally, intracavitary or by intravenous injection. Radioactive isotopes include but are not limited to: I-131 or P-32.

5. Assign **code 3** for 90-Yttrium and for 131-Iodine when given with Rituxan as treatment for lymphoma. (Code Rituxan as **chemotherapy**).

   Note: Rituxan is given in combination with the monoclonal antibody Zevalin conjugated to 90-Yttrium or the monoclonal antibody Bexxar conjugated to 131-Iodine in the treatment of NHL. The monoclonal antibody is only the delivery agent for the radioisotope. Do not code Zevalin or Bexxar as chemotherapy. See the definition of Monoclonal Antibodies.

6. Assign **code 4** when the patient has beam radiation **and** either radioactive implants or radioisotopes.

7. Assign **code 8** when

   a. Radiation has been recommended, but there is no confirmation of its actually being delivered

   b. The only information available is that the patient was referred to a radiation oncologist

   Note: Review cases coded 8 periodically for later confirmation of radiation therapy

   Example: Mammocyte intracavitary radiation therapy device was placed in the breast, but there is no documentation of radiation actually being given. Assign code 8. Check this case periodically and update the code when further information becomes available.

8. Assign **code 9** when there is no documentation that radiation was recommended or performed

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Coding for Tumor Embolization

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), and the SEER Program have collaborated to clarify and refine coding directives for tumor embolization and are jointly issuing the following instructions.

Definitions

Chemoembolization

A procedure in which the blood supply to the tumor is blocked surgically or mechanically and anticancer drugs are administered directly into the tumor. This permits a higher concentration of drug to be in contact with the tumor for a longer period of time.

Radioembolization

Embolization combined with injecting small radioactive beads or coils into an organ or tumor.

Tumor embolization

The intentional blockage of an artery or vein to stop the flow of blood through the desired vessel.

Coding Instructions

Code as brachytherapy when the tumor embolization is performed using a radioactive agent or radioactive seeds.

Example: Yttrium-90 microsphere radioembolization is an FDA-approved, non-surgical procedure used to treat inoperable liver cancer. With yttrium-90 microsphere radioembolization, a catheter is inserted through a tiny incision in the groin and threaded through the arteries until it reaches the hepatic artery. Once the catheter is properly placed in the hepatic artery, millions of tiny beads, or microspheres, which contain the radioactive element yttrium-90, are released into the blood stream. These microspheres lodge in the smaller blood vessels that feed the tumor. In addition to preventing blood flow to the tumor, the microspheres emit radiation that helps destroy the cancerous cells.

Do not code pre-surgical embolization of hypervascular tumors with particles, coils or alcohol. These pre-surgical embolizations are typically performed to make the resection of the primary tumor easier. Examples where pre-surgical embolization is used include meningiomas, hemangioblastomas, paragangliomas, and renal cell metastases in the brain

Translation of Regional Treatment Modality and/or Boost Treatment Modality Field to Radiation

Radiation		Code	Regional Treatment Modality and/or Boost Treatment
0	None	00	No radiation treatment
1	Beam radiation	20	External beam, NOS
		21	Orthovoltage
		22	Cobalt-60, Cesium-137
		23	Photons (2-5 MV)
		24	Photons (6-10 MV)
		25	Photons (11-19 MV)
		26	Photons (>19 MV)
		27	Photons (mixed energies)
		28	Electrons
		29	Photons and electrons mixed
		30	Neutrons, with or without photons/electrons
		31	IMRT
		32	Conformal or 3-D therapy
		40	Protons
		41	Stereotactic radiosurgery, NOS
		42	Linac radiosurgery
		43	Gamma Knife
2	Radioactive implants	50	Brachytherapy, NOS
		51	Brachytherapy, intracavitary, LDR
		52	Brachytherapy, intracavitary, HDR
		53	Brachytherapy, interstitial, LDR
		54	Brachytherapy, interstitial, HDR
		55	Radium
3	Radioisotopes	60	Radioisotopes, NOS
		61	Strontium-89
		62	Strontium-90
4	Combination of 1 with 2 or 3	80	Combination modality, specified
		85	Combination modality, NOS
5	Radiation therapy, NOS, method or source unspecified	98	Other, NOS
9	Unknown	99	Unknown

If a code for radiation is not received from hospital registrars, the summary code can be derived from the following sources: Rad-Boost RX Modality, Rad-Regional RX Modality, and/or Reason For No Radiation.

Rad—Boost RX Modality	Rad—Regional RX Modality	RX Summ--Radiation
00	00, 99	0*
00	20-43	1
00	50-55	2
00	60-62	3
00	80-85	4
00	98	5
20-43	00, 20-43, 98, 99	1
20-43	50-55, 60-62, 80-85	4
50-55	00, 50-55, 98, 99	2
50-55	20-43, 80-85	4
50-55	60-62	3
60-62	00, 50-55, 60-62, 98, 99	3
60-62	20-43, 80-85	4
80-85	00-99	4
98	00, 98, 99	5
98, 99	20-43	1
98, 99	50-55	2
98, 99	60-62	3
98, 99	80-85	4
99	00	0*
99	99	9

* Reason for No Radiation is reviewed for asterisked items only. If Reason for No Radiation is 7, Rx Summ--Radiation is 7; If Reason for No Radiation is 8, Rx Summ--Radiation code is 8.

RADIATION SEQUENCE WITH SURGERY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1380
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Surg/Rad Seq

This field records the order in which surgery and radiation therapies were administered for those patients who had **both surgery and radiation**. For the purpose of coding the data item Radiation Sequence with Surgery, 'Surgery' is defined as a Surgical Procedure to the Primary Site (codes 10-90) or Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery (codes 1-7) or Surgical Procedure of Other Site (codes 1-5).

Code	Description
0	No radiation and/or surgery as defined above; Unknown if surgery and/or radiation given
2	Radiation before surgery
3	Radiation after surgery
4	Radiation both before and after surgery
5	Intraoperative radiation therapy
6	Intraoperative radiation with other radiation given before or after surgery
9	Sequence unknown, but both surgery and radiation were given

Coding Instructions

1. Assign code 0 when
   a. The patient did not have either surgery or radiation
   b. The patient had surgery but not radiation
   c. The patient had radiation but not surgery
   d. It is unknown whether or not the patient had surgery and/or radiation

2. Assign codes 2-9 when first course of therapy consists of both cancer-directed surgery and radiation therapy.

   Example 1: Sentinel lymph node biopsy, followed by radiation therapy, which was then followed by surgery of primary site. Code Radiation Sequence with Surgery as 3 (Radiation after surgery).

   Example 2: Lymph node aspiration, followed by radiation, which was then followed by surgery of primary site. Code Radiation Sequence with Surgery as 3 (Radiation after surgery) BECAUSE lymph node aspiration is coded in Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery.

   Example 3: Preoperative radiation therapy to primary site, followed by lymph node dissection, which was then followed by radiation therapy to area of positive nodes. Assign code 4 (Radiation both before and after surgery).

   Note: Code 4 is intended for situations with **at least two courses** of radiation therapy.

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

CHEMOTHERAPY

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1390
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Chemo

The data item Chemotherapy records the chemotherapy given as a part of the first course of treatment or the reason that chemotherapy was not given.

See SEER*Rx for chemotherapy drug codes and for information on the drug's function.

Code	Description
00	None, chemotherapy was **not** part of the planned first course of therapy; diagnosed at autopsy
01	Chemotherapy administered as first course therapy, but the type and number of agents is not documented in the patient record.
02	**Single** agent chemotherapy administered as first course therapy.
03	**Multiagent** chemotherapy administered as first course therapy.
82	Chemotherapy was **not** recommended/administered because it was **contraindicated** due to patient risk factors (comorbid conditions, advanced age, etc.).
85	Chemotherapy was **not** administered because the patient died prior to planned or recommended therapy.
86	Chemotherapy was **not** administered. It was **recommended** by the patient's physician but was not administered as part of the first course of therapy. **No reason** was stated in patient record.
87	Chemotherapy was **not** administered. It was recommended by the patient's physician, but the treatment was **refused** by the patient, a patient's family member, or the patient's guardian. The refusal was noted in the patient record.
88	Chemotherapy was **recommended**, but it is **unknown** if it was administered.
99	It is **unknown** whether a chemotherapeutic agent(s) was recommended or administered because it is not stated in the patient record.

Definitions

Chemotherapy recommended: A consult recommended chemotherapy, or the attending physician documented that chemotherapy was recommended. A referral to a clinical oncologist is equivalent to a recommendation.

Multiple agent chemotherapy: Planned first course of therapy included two or more chemotherapeutic agents and those agents were administered. The planned first course of therapy may or may not have included other agents such as hormone therapy, immunotherapy, or other treatment in addition to the chemotherapeutic agents.

Single agent chemotherapy: Only one chemotherapeutic agent was administered to destroy cancer tissue during the first course of therapy. The chemotherapeutic agent may or may not have been administered with other drugs classified as immunotherapy, hormone therapy, ancillary, or other treatment.

Coding Instructions

1. Code the chemotherapeutic agents whose actions are chemotherapeutic only; **do not code** the method of **administration**.

2. When chemotherapeutic agents are used as radiosensitizers or radioprotectants, they are given at a much lower dosage and do not affect the cancer. Radiosensitizers and radioprotectants are classified as ancillary drugs. **Do not code as chemotherapy**.

Note: Do not assume that a chemo agent given with radiation therapy is a radiosensitizer. Seek additional information. Compare the dose given to the dose normally given for treatment.

For additional information, see

- The National Cancer Institute's Physician Data Query (PDQ), Health Professional Version http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq

And/Or

- The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp

3. The physician may change a drug during the first course of therapy because the patient cannot tolerate the original agent.

    a. This is a continuation of the first course of therapy when the chemotherapeutic agent that is substituted belongs to the same group (alkylating, antimetabolites, natural products, or other miscellaneous).

    b. Do **not** code the new agent as first course therapy when the original chemotherapeutic agent is changed to one that is NOT in the same group. Code only the original agent as first course.

4. Code as treatment for both primaries when the patient receives chemotherapy and has in situ carcinoma in one breast and inflammatory in the other breast. Chemotherapy would likely affect both primaries.

5. Assign **code 00** when

    a. There is no information in the patient's medical record about chemotherapy **AND**

        i. It is known that chemotherapy is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer
        OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had chemotherapy.

    b. If the treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include chemotherapy.

    c. Patient elects to pursue no treatment following the discussion of chemotherapy. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Watchful waiting/active surveillance (CLL).

    e. Patient diagnosed at autopsy.

    Example: Patient is diagnosed with multiple myeloma. There is no mention of treatment or treatment plans in the medical record. Follow-back finds that the patient died three months after diagnosis. There are no additional medical records or other pertinent information available. Assign code 00 since there is no reason to suspect that the patient had been treated.

6. Do not code combination of ancillary drugs administered with single agent chemotherapeutic agents as multiple chemotherapy. For example the administration of 5-FU (antimetabolite) and Leucovorin (ancillary drug) is coded to single agent (Code 02).

7. Assign **code 82** when chemotherapy is a customary option for the primary site/histology but it was not administered due to patient risk factors, such as:

   a. Advanced **age.**

   b. **Comorbid** condition(s) (heart disease, kidney failure, other cancer, etc.).

8. Assign **code 88** when the only information available is

   a. The patient was referred to an oncologist

   b. Insertion of port-a-cath

   Note: Review cases coded 88 periodically for later confirmation of chemotherapy

9. Assign **code 99** when there is no documentation that chemotherapy was recommended or administered

Chemotherapeutic Agents

Chemotherapeutic agents are chemicals that affect cancer tissue by means other than hormonal manipulation. Chemotherapeutic agents can be divided into five groups

- Alkylating agents
- Antimetabolites
- Natural Products
- Targeted therapy
- Miscellaneous

Alkylating Agents

Alkylating agents are **not cell-cycle-specific**. Although they are toxic to all cells, they are most active in the resting phase of the cell. Alkylating agents directly damage DNA to prevent the cancer cell from reproducing. Alkylating agents are used to treat many different cancers including acute and chronic leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, multiple myeloma, sarcoma, and cancers of the lung, breast and ovary. Because the drugs damage DNA they can cause long-term damage to the bone marrow and can, in rare cases, lead to acute leukemia. The risk of leukemia from alkylating agents is "dose-dependent." Types of alkylating agents include:

- Mustard gas derivatives/nitrogen mustards: Mechlorethamine, Cyclophosphamide, Chlorambucil, Melphalan, and Isosfmide
- Ethylemines: Thiotepa and Hexamethylmelamine
- Aklysulfonates: Busulfan
- Hydrazines and Trizines: Alkretamine, Procarbazine, Decarbazine, and Temozolomide
- Nitrusureas: Camustine, Lomustine and Streptozcin. Nitrosureas are unique because they can cross the blood-brain barrier and can be used in treating brain tumors
- Metal salts: Carboplatin, Cisplatin, and Oxaliplating

Antimetabolites

Antimetabolites are **cell-cycle specific**. Antimetabolites are very similar to normal substances within the cell. When the cells incorporate these substances into the cellular metabolism, they are unable to divide. Antimetabolites are classified according to the substances with which they interfere.

- Folic acid antagonist: Methotrexate
- Pyrimidine antagonist: 5-Florouracil, Foxuridine, Cytarabine, Capecitabine, and Gemcitabine

- Purine antagonist: 6-Mercaptopurine and 6-Thioguanine
- Adenosine deaminase inhibitor: Cladribine, Fludarabine, Nelarabine, and Pentostatin

Natural Products

1. Plant Alkaloids **are cell-cycle specific** which means they attack the cells during various phases of division. They block cell division by preventing microtubule function. Microtubules are vital for cell division. Without them, division cannot occur. Plant alkaloids, as the name implies, are derived from certain types of plants.
   - Vinca alkaloids: Vincristine, Vinblastine, and Vinorelbine
   - Taxanes: Paclitaxel and Docetaxel
   - Podphyllotoxins: Etoposide and Tenisopide
   - Camptothecan analogs: Innotecan and Topotecan

2. Antitumor antibiotics are also **cell-cycle specific** and act during multiple phases of the cell cycle. They are made from natural products and were first produced by the soil fungus Streptomyces. Antitumor antibiotics form free radicals that break DNA strands, stopping the multiplication of cancer cells.
   - Anthracyclines: Doxorubicin, Danorubicin, Epirubicin, Mitoxantone, and Idabicin
   - Chromomycins: Dactinomycin and Plicamycin
   - Miscellaneous: Mitomycin and Bleomycin

3. Topoisomerase inhibitors interfere with the action of topoisomerase enzymes (topoisomerase I and II). They control the manipulation of the structure of DNA necessary for replication.
   - Topoisomerase I inhibitors: Ironotecan, topotecan
   - Topoisomerase II inhibitors: Amasrine, etoposide, etoposide phosphate, teniposide

Targeted therapy

Targeted therapy agents are a group of newer cancer drugs that act directly against abnormal proteins in cancer cells

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Antineoplastics that are unique

- Ribonuclotide reductase inhibitor: Hydroxyurea
- Adrenocortical steroid inhibiotor: Mitotane
- Enzymes: Asparaginase and Pegaspargse
- Antimicrotubule agent: Estramustine
- Retinoids: Bexatene, Isotretinoin, Tretinoin (ATRA)

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Coding for Tumor Embolization

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), and the SEER Program have collaborated to clarify and refine coding directives for tumor embolization and are jointly issuing the following instructions.

Definitions

Chemoembolization
: A procedure in which the blood supply to the tumor is blocked surgically or mechanically and anticancer drugs are administered directly into the tumor. This permits a higher concentration of drug to be in contact with the tumor for a longer period of time.

Radioembolization
: Embolization combined with the injection of small radioactive beads or coils into an organ or tumor.

Tumor embolization
: The intentional blockage of an artery or vein to stop the flow of blood through the desired vessel.

Coding Instructions

Code as Chemotherapy when the embolizing agent(s) is a chemotherapeutic drug(s). Use SEER*Rx to determine whether the drugs used are classified as chemotherapeutic agents. Use codes 01, 02, 03 as specific information regarding the agent(s) is documented.

Example: The patient has hepatocellular carcinoma (primary liver cancer). From a procedure report: Under x-ray guidance, a small catheter is inserted into an artery in the groin. The catheter's tip is threaded into the artery in the liver that supplies blood flow to the tumor. Chemotherapy is injected through the catheter into the tumor and mixed with particles that embolize or block the flow of blood to the tumor.

Do not code pre-surgical embolization of hypervascular tumors with particles, coils or alcohol. These pre-surgical embolizations are typically performed to make the resection of the primary tumor easier. Examples where pre-surgical embolization is used include meningiomas, hemangioblastomas, paragangliomas, and renal cell metastases in the brain

HORMONE THERAPY

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1400
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Hormone

The data item Hormone Therapy records therapy administered as first course treatment that affects cancer tissue by adding, blocking, or removing the action or production of hormones.

See SEER*Rx for hormone therapy drug codes.

Note: **Surgical removal** of **organs** for hormone manipulation is **not** coded in this data item. Code these procedures in the data field Hematologic Transplant and Endocrine Procedures.

Code	Description
00	None, hormone therapy was not part of the planned first course of therapy; not usually administered for this type and/or stage of cancer; diagnosed at autopsy only
01	Hormone therapy administered as first course therapy
82	Hormone therapy was not recommended/administered because it was contraindicated due to patient risk factors (comorbid conditions, advanced age, etc.)
85	Hormone therapy was not administered because the patient died prior to planned or recommended therapy
86	Hormone therapy was not administered. It was recommended by the patient's physician but was not administered as part of the first course of therapy. No reason was stated in the patient record.
87	Hormone therapy was not administered. It was recommended by the patient's physician, but this treatment was refused by the patient, a patient's family member, or the patient's guardian. The refusal was noted in the patient record.
88	Hormone therapy was recommended, but it is unknown if it was administered.
99	It is unknown whether a hormonal agent(s) was recommended or administered.

Coding Instructions

1. Code the hormonal agent given as part of combination chemotherapy (e.g. MOPP or COPP), whether it affects the cancer cells or not.

2. Assign **code 00** when

    a. There is no information in the patient's medical record about hormone therapy **AND**

        i. It is known that hormone therapy is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer
        OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had hormone therapy

    b. If the treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include hormone therapy

    c. Patient elected to pursue no treatment following the discussion of hormone therapy treatment. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Watchful waiting, active surveillance (prostate)

    e. Patient diagnosed at autopsy

f. Hormone treatment was given for a non-reportable condition or as chemoprevention prior to diagnosis of a reportable condition

Example 1: Tamoxifen given for hyperplasia of breast four years prior to breast cancer diagnosis. Code 00 in Hormone therapy. Do not code tamoxifen given for hyperplasia as treatment for breast cancer.

Example 2: Patient with a genetic predisposition to breast cancer is on preventative hormone therapy. Do not code hormone therapy given before cancer is diagnosed.

3. Assign **code 88** when the only information available is that the patient was referred to an oncologist.

   Note: Review cases coded 88 periodically for later confirmation of hormone therapy

4. Assign **code 99** when there is no documentation that hormone therapy was recommended or performed.

Coding Examples

Example 1: Endometrial cancer may be treated with progesterone. Code all administration of progesterone to patients with endometrial cancer in this field. Even if the progesterone is given for menopausal symptoms, it has an effect on the growth or recurrence of endometrial cancer.

Example 2: **Follicular** and **papillary** cancers of the **thyroid** are often treated with thyroid hormone to suppress serum thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH). If a patient with papillary and/or follicular cancer of the thyroid is given a thyroid hormone, code the treatment in this field.

Example 3: Bromocriptine suppresses the production of prolactin, which causes growth in pituitary adenoma. Code Bromocriptine as hormone treatment for pituitary adenoma.

Hormone Categories

Hormones may be divided into several categories

- Androgens: Fluoxymesterone
- Anti-androgens: Bicalutamide (Casodex), flutamide (Eulexin), and nilutamde (Nilandron)
- Corticosteroids: Adrenocorticotrophic agents
- Estrogens
- Progestins
- Estrogen antagonists, Anti-estrogens: Fulvestrant (Faslodex), tamoxifen, and toremifene (Fareston).
- Aromatase inhibitors, Antiaromatase: Anastrozole (Arimidex), exemestane (Aromasin), and letrozole (Femara)
- GnRH or LH-RH: Lupron, Zoladex

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

IMMUNOTHERAPY

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1410
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--BRM

The data item Immunotherapy records immunotherapeutic (biological therapy, biotherapy or biological response modifier) agents administered as first course of therapy. See SEER*RX for immunotherapy codes.

Immunotherapy **uses** the body's **immune system**, either directly or indirectly, to fight cancer or to lessen the side effects that may be caused by some cancer treatments. Record only those treatments that are administered to affect the cancer cells.

See SEER*Rx for immunotherapy drug codes.

Immunotherapy is **designed** to:

1. Make **cancer cells** more **recognizable** and therefore more **susceptible** to destruction by the immune system.

2. **Boost** the killing power of **immune** system cells, such as T-cells, NK-cells, and macrophages.

3. **Alter** the **growth patterns** of cancer cells to promote behavior like that of healthy cells.

4. **Block** or **reverse** the process that **changes** a normal cell or a pre-cancerous cell into a cancerous cell.

5. **Enhance** the body's ability to **repair** or **replace** normal cells damaged or destroyed by other forms of cancer treatment, such as chemotherapy or radiation.

6. **Prevent** cancer cells from **spreading** to other parts of the body.

Code	Description
00	None, immunotherapy was not part of the planned first course of therapy; not customary therapy for this cancer; diagnosed at autopsy only
01	Immunotherapy was administered as first course therapy
82	Immunotherapy was not recommended/administered because it was contraindicated due to patient risk factors (comorbid conditions, advanced age, etc.)
85	Immunotherapy was not administered because the patient died prior to planned or recommended therapy
86	Immunotherapy was not administered; it was recommended by the patient's physician but was not administered as part of the first-course of therapy. No reason was noted in the patient's record.
87	Immunotherapy was not administered. It was recommended by the patient's physician, but this treatment was refused by the patient, a patient's family member, or the patient's guardian. The refusal was noted in the patient record.
88	Immunotherapy was recommended, but it is unknown if it was administered
99	It is unknown if immunotherapy was recommended or administered because it is not stated in patient record.

Definitions

Types of immunotherapy

Cancer Vaccines: Cancer vaccines are still in the experimental phase and are not coded in this data item. They may be coded in the field Other Therapy. Currently clinical trials use cancer vaccines for brain, breast, colon, kidney, lung, melanoma, and ovary.

Interferons: Interferons belong to a group of proteins called cytokines. They are produced naturally by the white blood cells in the body. Interferon-alpha is able to slow tumor growth directly as well as activate the immune system. It is used for a number of cancers including multiple myeloma, chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), hairy cell leukemia, and malignant melanoma.

Interleukins (IL-2) are often used to treat kidney cancer and melanoma.

Monoclonal Antibodies: Monoclonal antibodies (Mab) are produced in a laboratory. The artificial antibodies are used in a variety of ways in systemic therapy and can be chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or ancillary drugs. Some are injected into the patient to seek out and disrupt cancer cell activities. When the monoclonal antibody disrupts tumor growth, it is coded as chemotherapy. Other Mabs are linked to radioisotopes (conjugated monoclonal antibodies). The Mab finds and attaches to the target tumor cells and brings with it the radioisotope that actually kills the tumor cell. The monoclonal antibody itself does nothing to enhance the immune system. Conjugated monoclonal antibodies such as tositumomab (Bexxar) or ibritumomab (Zevalin) are coded to the part of the drug that actually kills the cells, usually radioisotopes. A third function of Mabs is to enhance the immune response against the cancer, either by identifying tumor cells that are mimicking normal cells, or by boosting the body's natural defenses that destroy foreign cells. Consult SEER*Rx for the treatment category in which each monoclonal antibody should be coded.

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **code 00**

    a. When there is no information in the patient's medical record about immunotherapy **AND**

        i. It is known that immunotherapy is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer
        OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had immunotherapy

    b. If the treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include immunotherapy.

    c. Patient elects to pursue no treatment following the discussion of immunotherapy. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Watchful waiting, active surveillance (prostate)

    e. Patient diagnosed at autopsy

    f. For anti-thymocyte globulin treatment. Anti-thymocyte globulin is used to treat transplant rejection. Do not code as immunotherapy.

2. Assign **code 87** when

    a. The patient refused recommended immunotherapy

    b. The patient made a blanket refusal of all recommended treatment and immunotherapy is a customary option for the primary site/histology

    c. The patient refused all treatment before any was recommended

3. Assign **code 88** when the only information available is that the patient was referred to an oncologist.

    Note: Review cases coded 88 periodically for later confirmation of immunotherapy

4. Assign **code 99** when there is no documentation that immunotherapy was recommended or performed

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

HEMATOLOGIC TRANSPLANT AND ENDOCRINE PROCEDURES

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 3250
NAACCR Name: RX Summ--Transplnt/Endocr

This data item records systemic therapeutic procedures administered as part of the first course of treatment. These procedures include bone marrow transplants (BMT) and stem cell harvests with rescue (stem cell transplant), endocrine surgery and/or radiation performed for hormonal effect (when cancer originates at another site), and a combination of transplants and endocrine therapy.

Code	Description
00	None, transplant procedure or endocrine therapy was not a part of the first course of therapy; not customary therapy for this cancer; diagnosed at autopsy only
10	Bone marrow transplant, NOS. A bone marrow transplant procedure was administered as first course therapy, but the type was not specified
	11 Bone marrow transplant autologous
	12 Bone marrow transplant allogeneic
20	Stem cell harvest (stem cell transplant) and infusion
30	Endocrine surgery and/or endocrine radiation therapy as first course therapy
40	Combination of transplant procedure with endocrine surgery and/or endocrine radiation (Code 30 in combination with 10, 11, 12, or 20) as first course therapy
82	Transplant procedure and/or endocrine therapy was not recommended/administered because it was contraindicated due to patient risk factors (comorbid conditions, advanced age, etc.)
85	Transplant procedures and/or endocrine therapy was not administered because the patient died prior to planned or recommended therapy
86	Transplant procedures and/or endocrine therapy was not administered; it was recommended by the patient's physician but was not administered as part of first course therapy. No reason was noted in the patient record.
87	Transplant procedures and/or endocrine therapy were not administered; this treatment was recommended by the patient's physician but was refused by the patient, a patient's family member, or the patient's guardian. The refusal was noted in the patient record.
88	Transplant procedures and/or endocrine therapy was recommended, but it is unknown if it was administered.
99	It is unknown if a transplant procedure or endocrine therapy was recommended or administered because it is not stated in patient record.

Definitions

Bone marrow transplant (BMT): Procedure used to restore stem cells that were destroyed by chemotherapy and/or radiation. Replacing the stem cells allows the patient to undergo higher doses of chemotherapy.

BMT Allogeneic: Receives bone marrow or stem cells from a donor.

BMT Autologous: Uses the patient's own bone marrow and/or stem cells. The tumor cells are filtered out and the purified blood and stem cells are returned to the patient.

Note: Used for breast cancer, lymphoma, leukemia, aplastic anemia, myeloma, germ cell tumors, ovarian cancer, and small cell lung cancer.

Conditioning: High-dose chemotherapy with or without radiation administered prior to transplants such as BMT and stem cells to kill cancer cells. This conditioning also destroys normal bone marrow cells so the normal cells need to be replaced (rescue). The high dose chemotherapy is coded in the Chemotherapy field and the radiation is coded in the Radiation field.

Hematopoietic Growth Factors: A group of substances that support hematopoietic (blood cell) colony formation. The group includes erythropoietin, interleukin-3, and colony-stimulating factors (CSFs). The growth-stimulating substances are ancillary drugs and not coded.

Non-Myeloablative Therapy: Uses immunosuppressive drugs pre- and post-transplant to ablate (destroy) the bone marrow. These are not recorded as therapeutic agents.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplantation (PBSCT): Rescue that replaces stem cells after conditioning.

Rescue: Rescue is the actual BMT or stem cell transplant done after conditioning.

Stem Cells: Immature cells found in bone marrow, blood stream and umbilical cords. The stem cells mature into blood cells.

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **code 00**

    a. When there is no information in the patient's medical record about transplant procedure or endocrine therapy
    AND
        i. It is known that transplant procedure or endocrine therapy is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer
        OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had transplant procedure or endocrine therapy.

    b. If the treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include transplant procedure or endocrine therapy.

    c. Patient elects to pursue no treatment following the discussion of transplant procedure or endocrine therapy. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Watchful waiting/active surveillance (CLL)

    e. Patient diagnosed at autopsy

2. Assign **code 10** if the patient has "mixed chimera transplant (mini-transplant or non-myeloablative transplant). These transplants are a mixture of the patient's cells and donor cells.

3. **Codes 11 and 12** have priority over code 10 (BMT, NOS).

4. Assign **code 12** (allogeneic) for a syngeneic bone marrow transplant (from an identical twin) or for a transplant from any person other than the patient.

5. Assign **code 20** when the patient has a stem cell harvest followed by a rescue or reinfusion (stem cell transplant, including allogenic stem cell transplant) as first course therapy. If the patient does not have a rescue, code the stem cell harvest as 88, recommended, unknown if administered.

6. Assign **code 30** for endocrine radiation and/or surgery. Endocrine organs are testes and ovaries. Endocrine radiation and/or surgical procedures must be bilateral, or must remove the remaining paired organ for hormonal effect.

7. Assign **code 87**

   a. If the patient **refused** recommended transplant or endocrine procedure.

   b. If the patient made a **blanket refusal** of all recommended treatment and the treatment coded in this data item is a customary option for the primary site/histology.

   c. If the patient **refused all treatment** before any was recommended.

8. Assign **code 88** when the only information available is that the patient was referred to an oncologist.

   Note: Review cases coded 88 periodically for later confirmation of transplant procedure or endocrine therapy

9. Assign **code 99** when there is no documentation that transplant procedure or endocrine therapy was recommended or performed

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

SYSTEMIC TREATMENT/SURGERY SEQUENCE

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1639
NAACCR Name: RX SUMM-Systemic/SurSeq

This field records the sequence of any systemic therapy and surgery given as first course of therapy for those patients who had both systemic therapy and surgery. For the purpose of coding systemic treatment sequence with surgery, 'Surgery' is defined as a Surgical Procedure to the Primary Site (codes 10-90) or Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery (codes 1-7) or Surgical Procedure of Other Site (codes 1-5).

Systemic therapy is defined as

- Chemotherapy
- Hormone therapy
- Biological response therapy/immunotherapy
- Bone marrow transplant
- Stem cell harvests
- Surgical and/or radiation endocrine therapy

Code	Label	Definition	Example(s) / Notes
0	No systemic therapy and/or surgical treatment; Unknown if surgery and/or systemic therapy given	The patient did not have both systemic therapy and surgery. It is unknown whether or not the patient had surgery and/or systemic therapy.	
2	Systemic therapy before surgery	The patient had systemic therapy prior to surgery	
3	Systemic therapy after surgery	The patient had systemic therapy after surgery	*Example*: patient has LN dissection, followed by chemo, followed by primary site surgery.
4	Systemic therapy both before and after surgery	Systemic therapy was administered prior to surgery and also after surgery	*Note*: Code 4 is intended for situations with at least two courses of systemic therapy
5	Intraoperative systemic therapy	The patient had intraoperative systemic therapy.	
6	Intraoperative systemic therapy with other systemic therapy administered before or after surgery	The patient had intraoperative systemic therapy and also had systemic therapy before and/or after surgery	*Note*: The systemic therapy administered before or after surgery does not have to be the same type as the intraoperative systemic therapy
9	Sequence unknown	• The patient had systemic therapy and also had surgery. • It is unknown whether the systemic therapy was administered prior to surgery, after surgery, or intraoperatively.	

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

OTHER THERAPY

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1420
NAACCR Name: RX Summ—Other

Other Therapy identifies treatment given that cannot be classified as surgery, radiation, systemic therapy, or ancillary treatment. This data item includes all complementary and alternative medicine used by the patient in conjunction with conventional therapy or in place of conventional therapy.

Code	Description
0	None
1	Other
2	Other-Experimental
3	Other-Double Blind
6	Other-Unproven
7	Refusal
8	Recommended, unknown if administered
9	Unknown

Coding Instructions

1. Assign **Code 0** when

    a. There is no information in the patient's medical record about other therapy
    AND
        i. It is known that other therapy is not usually performed for this type and/or stage of cancer
        OR
        ii. There is no reason to suspect that the patient would have had other therapy

    b. If the treatment plan offered multiple treatment options and the patient selected treatment that did not include other therapy.

    c. Patient elects to pursue no treatment following the discussion of other therapy. Discussion does not equal a recommendation.

    d. Patient diagnosed at autopsy.

2. Assign **code 1** for

    a. Hematopoietic treatments such as: phlebotomy, transfusions, or aspirin

    b. PUVA (Psoralen (P) and long-wave ultraviolet radiation (UVA)) in the **RARE** event that it is used as treatment for extremely thin melanomas or cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (e.g. mycosis fungoides)

    c. Cancer treatment that could not be assigned to the previous treatment fields (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or systemic therapy)

3. Assign **code 2** for any experimental or newly developed treatment, such as a clinical trial, that differs greatly from proven types of cancer therapy.

Note: Hyperbaric oxygen has been used to treat cancer in clinical trials, but it is also used to promote tissue healing following head and neck surgeries. Do not code the administration of hyperbaric oxygen to promote healing as an experimental treatment.

4. Assign **code 3** when the patient is enrolled in a double blind clinical trial. When the trial is complete and the code is broken, review and recode the therapy.

5. Assign **code 6** for
   a. Unconventional methods whether they are the only therapy or are given **in combination** with conventional therapy

   b. Alternative therapy ONLY if the patient receives no other type of treatment

6. Assign **code 8** When **other therapy** was recommended by the physician **but t**here **is no infor**mation that the treatment was given.

7. Assign **code 9** when **there is n**o documentation that other therapy was recommended or performed

A quote from the website for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine (OCCAM) defines Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) as any medical system, practice, or product that is not thought of as "western medicine" or standard medical care.

- Complementary medicine means it is used along with standard medicine, also called conventional medicine.
- Alternative medicine is used in place of standard treatments.

CAM treatments may include dietary supplements, megadose vitamins, herbal preparations, acupuncture, massage therapy, magnet therapy, spiritual healing, and meditation.

The OCCAM was established to coordinate and enhance activities of the NCI in complementary and alternative medicine research as it relates to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer, cancer-related symptoms and side effects of conventional cancer treatment.

See complete information on types of complementary and alternative medicine specific to cancer at http://www.cancer.gov/cam/ . For additional information on cancer and other diseases, please visit http://nccam.nih.gov/health/whatiscam/.

Death Certificate Only (DCO) Cases

See the *NAACCR Death Clearance Manual* for coding instructions

Coding for Tumor Embolization

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), and the SEER Program have collaborated to clarify and refine coding directives for tumor embolization and are jointly issuing the following instructions.

Definitions

Chemoembolization

A procedure in which the blood supply to the tumor is blocked surgically or mechanically and anticancer drugs are administered directly into the tumor. This permits a higher concentration of drug to be in contact with the tumor for a longer period of time.

Radioembolization

Embolization combined with injecting small radioactive beads or coils into an organ or tumor.

Tumor embolization

The intentional blockage of an artery or vein to stop the flow of blood through the desired vessel.

Coding Instructions

Code as "Other Therapy" when tumor embolization is performed using alcohol as the embolizing agent. Use code 1.

Example: For head and neck primaries: Ideally, an embolic agent is chosen that will block the very small vessels within the tumor but spare the adjacent normal tissue. Liquid embolic agents, such as ethanol or acrylic, and powdered particulate materials can penetrate into the smallest blood vessels of the tumor.

Use code 1 for embolization to a site other than the liver where the embolizing agent is unknown.

Do not code pre-surgical embolization of hypervascular tumors with particles, coils or alcohol. These pre-surgical embolizations are typically performed to make the resection of the primary tumor easier. Examples where pre-surgical embolization is used include meningiomas, hemangioblastomas, paragangliomas, and renal cell metastases in the brain

SECTION VII
FOLLOW UP INFORMATION

DATE OF LAST FOLLOW UP OR OF DEATH

Item Length: 8
NAACCR Item #: 1750
NAACCR Name: Date of Last Contact

This data item records the date of last follow up or the date of death. SEER requires the registries to update the follow up information on all cases on an annual basis. The exception is carcinoma in situ of the cervix diagnosed on or after 1/1/1996.

Date of Last Follow Up or Death must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date of Last Follow Up or Death may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the year, month and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Codes for Year

Code the four-digit year

Codes for Month

Code	Description
01	January
02	February
03	March
04	April
05	May
06	June
07	July
08	August
09	September
10	October

Code	Description
11	November
12	December

Codes for Day

01
02
03
..
..
31

Coding instructions

1. Code the date the patient was actually seen by the physician or contacted by the hospital registry as the follow-up date. Do not code the date the follow-up report was received.

2. Do not change the follow-up date unless new information is available.

3. The field is associated with the patient, not the cancer, so all records (primary sites) for the same patient will have the same follow-up date.

Estimating Dates

Estimating the **month**

1. Code "spring of" to April
2. Code "summer" or "middle of the year" to July
3. Code "fall" or "autumn" as October
4. For "winter of," try to determine whether the physician means the first of the year or the end of the year and code January or December as appropriate. If no determination can be made, use whatever information is available to calculate the month.
5. Code "early in year" to January
6. Code "late in year" to December
7. Use whatever information is available to calculate the month
8. Code the month of admission when there is no basis for estimation
9. Leave month blank if there is no basis for approximation

Estimating the **year**

1. Code "a couple of years" to two years earlier
2. Code "a few years" to three years earlier
3. Use whatever information is available to calculate the year
4. Code the year of admission when there is no basis for estimation

DATE OF LAST FOLLOW UP OR DEATH FLAG

Item Length: 2
NAACCR Item #: 1751
NAACCR Name: Date of Last Contact Flag

Date flag fields were added beginning with diagnoses on or after 1/1/2010 as part of an initiative to standardize date fields. Date flags replace nondate information that had previously been transmitted in date fields. Coding 99999999 to indicate "unknown" is an example of nondate information that was previously transmitted in date fields.

Code	Label	Definition
	Blank	A valid date value is provided in Date of Last Follow up or Death
12	Unknown	A proper value is applicable but not known

Coding Instructions

1. Leave this item blank when Date of Last Follow up or Death has a full or partial date recorded
2. Assign code 12 when the date of last follow up or death cannot be determined

VITAL STATUS

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1760
NAACCR Name: Vital Status

SEER requires the registries to update the follow up information on all cases on an annual basis. The exception is carcinoma in situ of the cervix diagnosed on or after 1/1/1996. This field records the vital status of the patient on the date of last follow up.

Code	Description
1	Alive
4	Dead

The field is associated with the patient, not the cancer, so if the patient has multiple primary tumors, vital status should be the same for all tumors.

ICD CODE REVISION USED FOR CAUSE OF DEATH

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1920
NAACCR Name: ICD Revision Number

SEER requires the registries to update the follow up information on all cases on an annual basis. The exception is carcinoma in situ of the cervix diagnosed on or after 1/1/1996. This field shows the revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) used to code the underlying cause of death.

If the patient has multiple tumor records, the ICD Code Revision Used for Cause of Death must be identical on each record.

Code	Description
0	Patient alive at last follow up
1	ICD-10 (1999+ deaths)
7	ICD-7
8	ICDA-8
9	ICD-9

UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH

Item Length: 4
NAACCR Item #: 1910
NAACCR Name: Cause of Death

This is the official underlying cause of death coded from the death certificate using ICD-7, ICDA-8, ICD-9, or ICD-10 codes.

Special Codes

Code	Description
0000	Patient alive at last contact
7777	State death certificate or listing not available
7797	State death certificate or listing available, but underlying cause of death not coded

Coding Instructions for ICD-10

1. Ignore (do not record) decimal points when copying codes.

2. The cause of death code is commonly four characters. Ignore (do not code) a fifth character if present.

3. Left justify the codes; if less than four characters, left justify and add a 9 to the right.

4. If the underlying cause of death code is not available, do not attempt to code the underlying cause of death unless you have a trained ICD-10 nosologist on staff or on consult.

Priority Order for use of source documents to assign codes, with 1 having the highest priority.

1. Use the underlying cause of death as coded by a state health department even if the code seems to be in error.

2. Report the coded underlying cause of death code from another source such as NDI Plus or state data exchange.

3. Code the underlying cause of death if a trained ICD-10 nosologist is on staff or under contract

4. Code the underlying cause of death 7797 when the death certificate is available but the underlying cause of death code is not coded and cause of death is not available from another source such as NDI Plus or state data exchange.

5. Code 7777 when the death certificate is **not** available AND the coded underlying cause of death is not available from other sources such as NDI or state data exchange.

   Example: Medical doctor states patient died, but death certificate not available (not on state death file, not available through federal or state agencies); code 7777.

Beginning with deaths in 1999, the United States agreed to code all deaths using the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision* (ICD-10). The ICD-10 codes have up to four characters: a letter followed by 2 or 3 digits.

Examples:

Underlying Cause of Death	ICD-10	SEER Code
Malignant neoplasm of the thyroid	C73	C739
Acute appendicitis with peritonitis	K35.0	K350
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	C16.9	C169

If the patient has multiple records, the underlying cause of death must be identical on each record.

TYPE OF FOLLOW UP

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2180
NAACCR Name: SEER Type of Follow up

Type of Follow Up identifies the source of information used to code the patient's vital status. SEER requires registries to collect this data item.

Code	Description
1	"Autopsy Only" or "Death Certificate Only" case
2	Active follow up case
3	In situ cancer of the cervix uteri only
4	San Francisco-Oakland only: Case not originally in active follow up, but in active follow up now

Coding Instructions

1. All cases (other than in situ cancers of the cervix uteri) must be followed annually, including benign and borderline intracranial and CNS tumors diagnosed 1/1/2004 and forward.

2. Cases of in situ cancer of the cervix diagnosed on or after 1/1/1996 are not reportable; follow up is not required.

   Note: Follow up information should be updated when information is received on a person diagnosed before 1/1/1996.

SECTION VIII
ADMINISTRATIVE CODES

Each calendar year the SEER participants submit records to NCI for all persons/cancers diagnosed since the participant started reporting. Many of these records have been updated with information received by the participant since the prior data submission. NCI edits the information to ensure correctness and comparability of reporting. Some of these edits identify conditions that require additional review. To eliminate the need to review the same cases each submission, the Administrative Codes section contains a set of indicators used to show that the information in a record has already been reviewed.

SITE/TYPE INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2030
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/Type

Site/Type Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 25)

This field is used to flag those cases where the primary site and histology are unusual.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: The coding of an unusual combination of primary site and histologic type has been reviewed

HISTOLOGY/BEHAVIOR INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2040
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Histology

Histology/Behavior Interfield Review (Field Item Edit Morph and Interfield Edit 31)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for those cases where the behavior code differs from the ICD-O-3 behavior code i.e.: ICD-O-3 only lists a behavior code of /3 and the case was coded /2, or the ICD-O-3 only lists behavior codes of /0 and /1 and the case is coded /3. It is also used to flag those cases that are in situ and not microscopically confirmed.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed that the pathologist states the primary to be “in situ” or “malignant” although the behavior code of the histology is designated as “benign” or “uncertain” in ICD-O-2 or ICD-O-3(flag for a “Morphology Type & Behavior” edit)
2	Reviewed and confirmed that the behavior code is “in situ,” but the case is not microscopically confirmed (flag for a “Diagnostic Confirmation, Behavior Code” edit)
3	Reviewed and confirmed that conditions 1 and 2 both apply

AGE/SITE/HISTOLOGY INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 1990
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Age/Site/Morph

Age/Site/Histology Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 15)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for those cases with an unusual site/histology combination for a given age-group.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed that age/site/histology combination is correct as reported
2	Reviewed and confirmed that case was diagnosed *in utero*
3	Reviewed and confirmed that conditions 1 and 2 both apply

SEQUENCE NUMBER/DIAGNOSTIC CONFIRMATION INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2000
NAACCR Name: Over-ride SeqNo/DxConf

Sequence Number/Diagnostic Confirmation Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 23)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for those cases where a patient has separate primary records and one of them has not been microscopically confirmed. The unconfirmed primary should be reviewed to determine whether it is a true primary or metastasis from a previous one.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: Multiple primaries of special sites in which at least one diagnosis has not been microscopically confirmed have been reviewed

SITE/HISTOLOGY/LATERALITY/SEQUENCE INTERRECORD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2010
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/Lat/SeqNo

Site/Histology/Laterality/Sequence Number Interrecord Review (Interrecord Edit 09)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases having multiple primaries with the same histology and the same primary site. This review ensures that over-reporting does not happen.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: Multiple primaries of the same histology (3 digit) in the same primary site group have been reviewed

SURGERY/DIAGNOSTIC CONFIRMATION INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2020
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Surg/DxConf

Surgery/Diagnostic Confirmation Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 46 and Interfield Edit 76)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases where the patient had surgery but the specimen was so small that it was not possible to confirm the diagnosis microscopically.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient who had (cancer-directed) surgery, but the tissue removed was not sufficient for microscopic confirmation

TYPE OF REPORTING SOURCE/SEQUENCE NUMBER INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2050
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Report Source

Type of Reporting Source/Sequence Number Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 04)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases where the second or subsequent primary added to a patient's record was a Death-Certificate-Only case. The DCO case should be reviewed to determine that it is not a metastasis from the prior primary.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed, and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A second or subsequent primary with a reporting source of death certificate only has been reviewed and is indeed an independent primary

SEQUENCE NUMBER/ILL-DEFINED SITE INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2060
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Ill-define Site

Sequence Number/Ill-defined Site Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 22)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed when a subsequent primary has an ill-defined primary site code. The ill-defined site should be reviewed to determine that it is not the same as a previous tumor.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A second or subsequent primary reported with an ill-defined primary site (C76.0-C76.8, C80.9) has been reviewed and is an independent primary

LEUKEMIA OR LYMPHOMA/DIAGNOSTIC CONFIRMATION INTERFIELD REVIEW

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2070
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Leuk, Lymphoma

Lymphoma/Diagnostic Confirmation Interfield Review (Interfield Edit 48)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for leukemia or lymphoma cases that have not been microscopically confirmed.

IF48 identifies lymphoma cases with a diagnostic confirmation code of 6 (direct visualization) or 8 (clinical), and leukemia cases with a diagnostic confirmation code of 6 (direct visualization).

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient was diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma and the diagnosis was not microscopically confirmed

OVER-RIDE FLAG FOR SITE/BEHAVIOR (IF39)

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2071
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/Behavior

Over-ride Flag for Site/Behavior (Interfield Edit 39)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases where the behavior is coded to a 2/ and the primary site is nonspecific, such as female genital tract, NOS.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient has an in situ cancer of a nonspecific site and no further information about the primary site is available

The IF39 edit does not allow in situ cases of nonspecific sites, such as gastrointestinal tract, NOS; uterus, NOS; female genital tract, NOS; male genital organs, NOS; and others. This over-ride indicates that the conflict has been reviewed.

This was a new over-ride flag in the third edition of the code manual, but the flag may be applied to cases from any year.

OVER-RIDE FLAG FOR SITE/EOD/DIAGNOSIS DATE (IF40)

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2072
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/EOD/DX Dt

Over-ride Flag for Site/EOD/Diagnosis Date (Interfield Edit 40 and Interfield Edit 176)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases where the patient has a localized disease with the primary site coded to a non-specific site, like colon, NOS.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient had "localized" disease with a non-specific site and no further information about the primary site is available

The IF40 and IF176 edits do not allow "localized" disease with non-specific sites, such as mouth, NOS; colon, NOS (except histology 8220); bone, NOS; female genital system, NOS; male genital organs, NOS; and others. This over-ride indicates that the conflict has been reviewed.

This was a new over-ride flag in the third edition of the code manual, but the flag may be applied to cases from any year.

OVER-RIDE FLAG FOR SITE/LATERALITY/EOD (IF41)

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2073
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/Lat/EOD

Over-ride Flag for Site/Laterality/EOD (Interfield Edit 41 and Interfield Edit 177)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for cases with a non-specific laterality code.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient had laterality coded non-specifically and extension coded specifically

The IF41 and IF177 edits for paired organs does not allow EOD/CS Extension to be specified as in situ, localized, or regional by direct extension if laterality is coded as “bilateral, side unknown,” or “laterality unknown.” This over-ride indicates that the conflict has been reviewed.

This was a new over-ride flag in the third edition of the code manual, but the flag may be applied to cases from any year.

OVER-RIDE FLAG FOR SITE/LATERALITY/MORPHOLOGY (IF42)

Item Length: 1
NAACCR Item #: 2074
NAACCR Name: Over-Ride Site/Lat/Morph

Over-ride Flag for Site/Laterality/Morphology (Interfield Edit 42)

This field is used to identify whether a case was reviewed and coding confirmed for paired-organ primary site cases with an in situ behavior and the laterality is not coded right, left, or one side involved, right or left origin not specified.

Code	Description
blank	Not reviewed, or reviewed and corrected
1	Reviewed and confirmed as reported: A patient had behavior code of in situ and laterality is not stated as right: origin of primary; left: origin of primary; or only one side involved, right or left origin not specified

The IF42 edit does not allow behavior code of in situ with non-specific laterality codes. This over-ride indicates that the conflict has been reviewed.

This was a new over-ride flag in the third edition of the code manual, but the flag may be applied to cases from any year.