

IV.
General Instructions and Histology Type ICD-O-3

January 1, 2007

EQUIVALENT OR EQUAL TERMS

Adenocarcinoma, glandular carcinoma
Multicentric, multifocal
Tumor, mass, lesion, neoplasm

DEFINITIONS

Note: Use these terms and definitions for all reportable cases except lymphoma and leukemia primaries (M9590-9989).

Bilateral: Relating to the right **and** left sides of the body or of a body structure; bilaterality is **not** an indication of single or multiple primaries.

Clinical Diagnosis: A diagnosis that is not microscopically confirmed. It may be based on information from diagnostic imaging or the clinician's expertise.

Contiguous tumor: A single tumor that involves, invades, or bridges adjacent or connecting sites or subsites.

Focal: An adjective meaning limited to one specific area. A focal cancer is limited to one specific area or organ. The area may be microscopic **or** macroscopic.

Foci: Plural of focus.

Focus: A term used by pathologists to describe a group of cells that can be **seen only by a microscope**. The cells are noticeably different from the surrounding tissue either by their appearance, chemical stain, or other testing.

Laterality: Indication of which side of a **paired organ/site** a tumor is located. (See Paired organ/site)

Most representative specimen: The pathologic specimen from the surgical procedure that removed the most **tumor** tissue.

Multiple primaries: More than one reportable case.

Overlapping tumor: The involved sites are adjacent (next to each other) and the tumor is contiguous.

Paired organ/site: There are two sides, one on the left side of the body and one on the right side of the body. (See Laterality)

Recurrence: This term has two meanings:

1. The reappearance of disease that was thought to be cured or inactive (in remission). Recurrent cancer starts from cancer cells that were not removed or destroyed by the original therapy.
2. A new occurrence of cancer arising from cells that have nothing to do with the earlier (first) cancer. A new or another occurrence, incidence, episode, or report of the same disease (cancer) in a general sense – a new occurrence of cancer.

Single primary: One reportable case.

Unilateral: Relating to one side of the body or one side of a body structure.

DETERMINING MULTIPLE PRIMARIES FOR SOLID MALIGNANT TUMORS

Note: The rules do not apply to hematopoietic primaries (lymphoma and leukemia) of any site or to the reportable benign or borderline intracranial or CNS tumors.

A. General Information

1. Use these rules to determine the number of reportable primaries. Do **not** use these rules to determine case reportability, stage, or grade.
2. The 2007 multiple primary and histology coding rules **replace all previous** multiple primary and histology coding **rules**.
3. The rules are **effective** for cases **diagnosed January 1, 2007** and after. Do not use these rules to abstract cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2007.
4. Read the **General Instructions** and the **site-specific Equivalent Terms and Definitions** before using the multiple primary rules.
5. The multiple primary and histology coding rules are available in **three formats**: flowchart, text, and matrix. The **rules are identical**, only the formats differ. Use the rules in the format that is easiest for you to follow.
6. **Notes** and **examples** are included with some of the rules to **highlight key points** or to add **clarity** to the rules.
7. **Do not use** a physician’s statement to decide whether the patient has a recurrence of a previous cancer or a new primary. Use the multiple primary rules as written **unless a pathologist compares** the present tumor to the “original” tumor and states that this tumor is a recurrence of cancer from the previous primary.
8. Use the Determining Multiple Primaries: Hematopoietic Primaries (Lymphoma and Leukemia) rules and table “Definitions of Single and Subsequent Primaries for Hematologic Malignancies” to determine single versus multiple primaries for lymphoma and leukemia cases.

B. How to Use the Multiple Primary Rules

1. Use the **Multiple Primary** rules to **make a decision on the number of primary malignancies** to be abstracted for reportable solid malignant tumors.
2. Use the site-specific rules for the following primary sites:
 - Brain, malignant (intracranial and CNS)
 - Breast

- Colon
 - Head and neck
 - Kidney
 - Lung
 - Malignant melanoma of the skin
 - Renal pelvis, ureter, bladder, and other urinary
3. Use the **Other Sites rules** for solid malignant tumors that occur in primary sites not covered by the site-specific rules.
 4. Each module (Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors, Single Tumor, Multiple Tumors) is an independent, complete set of coding rules. To determine which set of primary site rules to use:
 - a. When there is no tumor in the primary site, only metastatic lesions are present:
 - I. Use the primary site documented by a physician and use the multiple primary and histology coding rules for that primary site.
 - II. If no primary site is documented, code the primary site as unknown and use the general multiple primary and histology coding rules. Use the “Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors” module to determine multiple primaries and the “Single Tumor” module for coding histology.
 - b. To choose the appropriate module (Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors, Single Tumor, Multiple Tumors),
 - I. Use the multiple primary and histology coding rules for the primary site
 - II. Determine the number of tumors
 - i. Do not count metastatic lesions
 - ii. When the tumor is only described as multicentric or multifocal and the number of tumors is not mentioned, use the “Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors” module
 - iii. When there is a tumor or tumors with separate microscopic foci, ignore the separate microscopic foci and use the “Single Tumor” or “Multiple Tumor” modules as appropriate
 - iv. When the patient has a single tumor, use the “Single Tumor” module.
 - v. If there are multiple tumors, use the “Multiple Tumor” module.
 - III. See the Equivalent Terms and Definitions for Head and Neck for guidance in coding the primary site
 - IV. Use the primary site documented by the physician on the medical record
 5. If a **single primary**, prepare **one abstract**.
 6. If there are **multiple primaries**, prepare **two or more abstracts**.
 7. Rules are in hierarchical order within each module (Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors, Single Tumor, and Multiple Tumors). Use the first rule that applies and

STOP

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 tumor type or histology is a basis for staging and determination of treatment options. It affects the prognosis and course of the disease.

The *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology*, Third Edition (ICD-O-3) is the standard reference for histology codes for tumors diagnosed in 2001 and later. Do not record the 'M' that precedes the histology code. See sections *Coding Guidelines for Topography and Morphology*. and *Summary of Principal Rules for Using the ICD-O*, Third Edition for guidance in using the ICD-O-3.

Information about the 2007 Histology Coding Rules

Note: Do not use these rules to determine case reportability.

1. The 2007 multiple primary rules **replace all previous** multiple primary rules.
2. The rules are **effective** for cases **diagnosed January 1, 2007** and after. Do not use these rules to abstract cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2007.
3. The histology coding rules are available in **three formats**: flowchart, text, and matrix. The **rules are identical**, only the formats differ. Use the set of rules in the format that is easiest for you to follow.
4. **Notes** and **examples** are included with some of the rules to **highlight key points** or to add **clarity** to the rules.
5. Rules are in **hierarchical** order within each section (Single Tumor and Multiple Tumors Abstracted as a Single Primary).

How to Use the Rules

1. Read the **General Instructions**.
2. Read the **site-specific Equivalent Terms and Definitions**.
3. Use these rules to make a decision on coding the histology for all reportable solid malignant tumors.
4. Use the multiple primary rules to determine whether the patient has a single or multiple primaries before coding the histology.
5. Code the histology for **each** primary in a **separate abstract**.
6. Use the **site-specific rules** for the following primary sites:
 - Brain, malignant (intracranial and CNS)
 - Breast
 - Colon
 - Head and neck
 - Kidney
 - Lung
 - Malignant melanoma of the skin

- Renal pelvis, ureter, bladder, and other urinary
7. Use the **Other Sites rules** for all solid malignant tumors that occur in primary sites **not included** in the site-specific rules.
 8. Determine whether the patient has a single tumor or multiple tumors that will be abstracted as a single primary
 - a. Do not count metastatic tumors
 - b. When the tumor is described as multifocal or multicentric, use the Multiple Tumors module
 - c. When there is a tumor or tumors with separate foci of tumor do not count the foci
 - d. Only count the tumors that will be used to prepare that abstract. For example, when there are two tumors that will be abstracted as multiple primaries, you would use the Single Tumor modules to determine the histology code for each of the abstracts.
 9. **Each section** (Single Tumor and Multiple Tumors Abstracted as a Single Primary) is an independent, **complete set of coding rules**. For example, if the patient has multiple tumors, that will be abstracted as a single primary start with the first rule under the heading Multiple Tumors Abstracted as a Single Primary. Do not use any of the rules under the header Single Tumor.
 10. Use the first rule that applies and

STOP

Priority order for using Documents to Code Histology

Medical records frequently include multiple pathology reports and references to histologic diagnosis. Use the following instructions to identify which reports best represent the histology to be coded.

1. Pathology report:
 - a. From the **most representative** tumor specimen examined
 - b. From the **final diagnosis**

Note 1: Use information from **addenda** and **comments** associated with the final diagnosis to code the histology.

Note 2: A **revised/amended diagnosis** replaces the original final diagnosis. Code the histology from the revised/amended diagnosis.

Note 3: The new rules **limit** the information **to the final diagnosis**. The old rules allowed coding from information in the microscopic description. You will only use information from the microscopic portion of the pathology report when instructed to do so in one of the site-specific rules.
2. Cytology report.
3. When you do not have either a pathology report or cytology report:
 - a. Documentation in the medical record that references pathology or cytology findings
 - b. From mention of type of cancer (histology) in the medical record

Ambiguous Terms Used to Code Histology

When any of the ambiguous terms are used to describe a more specific histology, code the more specific histology.

Ambiguous terms that are characteristic (used to code histology)

Apparent(ly)
 Appears
 Comparable with
 Compatible with
 Consistent with
 Favor(s)
 Most likely
 Presumed
 Probable
 Suspect(ed)
 Suspicious (for)
 Typical (of)

Example: Non-small cell carcinoma, most likely adenocarcinoma. Code adenocarcinoma.

General Instructions Histology Coding Rules

When using rule (see note) that states “Code the histology documented by the physician when the pathology/cytology report is not available” code the histology from the document with the highest priority. Make a second pass through the histology rules to determine which histology code should be recorded. Start with the appropriate module, Single Tumor or Multiple Tumors, and continue through the rules until you reach the rule that fits the case you are coding.

Note: For most sites this will be rule H1 and the first rule in the Multiple Tumors module

When using rule (see note) that states “When the only histology is from a metastatic site” make a second pass through the histology rules to determine which histology code should be recorded. Start with the appropriate module, Single Tumor or Multiple Tumors, and continue through the rules until you reach the rule that fits the case you are coding.

Note: For most sites this will be rule H2 and the second rule in the Multiple Tumors module

When the patient has a previous or subsequent unknown primary site (80.9) or an ill-defined primary site, check carefully to see if this abstract or document should be consolidated into the previous abstract rather than making it a new primary.