

SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2026 - Summary of Changes

This table lists the changes in the 2026 manual by page number.

Page	Section	Data Item	Change	Notes/Comments
Cover	Cover page			Updated cover information.
9	Preface	Summary of Changes	Listing of major changes updated	Revised the section with the list of major changes including additions, deletions, and modifications made to the 2026 manual and appendices. See manual.
10	Preface	2026 Changes	Listing of additional 2026 changes updated	Revised the list of 2026 cancer coding and staging changes made to the SEER manual. See manual.
13	Reportability	Reportable Diagnosis List	Item 1.a.vi revised	Added text to an existing bullet: Conjunctival intraepithelial neoplasia with severe dysplasia, Grade III, squamous intraepithelial neoplasia Grade II of conjunctiva, or conjunctival intraepithelial lesion (C-MIL).
23	Changing Information on the Abstract		Dates in example revised	Updated the dates in the example under #4.
24	Determining Multiple Primarys	Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms	Text revised	Updates were made to the <i>Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding Manual and Database</i> for 2026 cases.
	Section I: Basic Record Identification	Record Type	Data item deleted	Removed the data item, Record Type.
30	Section I: Basic Record Identification	NAACCR Record Version	Code and description added	Added code 260 and description, 2026 Version 26.

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32	Section II: Information Source	Type of Reporting Source	Definition revised	Revised the definition of stand-alone medical record: An independent health care facility's record where the facility is not a part of a hospital or managed care system
34	Section II: Information Source	Type of Reporting Source	Example relocated	Moved the example under the code table to the section, Priority Order for Assigning Type of Reporting Source as Example 1; the existing example was numbered as Example 2.
40	Section III: Demographic Information	Birth Surname	Coding Instruction 2 revised	Revised Coding Instruction 2 to reflect the new data item name: Record when known regardless of value in the <i>Sex Assigned at Birth</i> data item
61	Section III: Demographic Information	Census Tract 2010	Text edited	Revised the first sentence: <i>Census Tract 2010</i> is a derived variable.
62	Section III: Demographic Information	Census Tract 2020	NAACCR Item # revised	Corrected the NAACCR Item # to 125.
	Section III: Demographic Information	Sex	Data Item deleted	Deleted <i>Sex</i> data item from the manual.
90	Section III: Demographic Information	Sex Assigned at Birth	Data Item added	Added <i>Sex Assigned at Birth</i> data item to the manual. See manual.
99	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Date of Diagnosis	Coding Instructions examples--dates revised	Updated dates in the examples used in several Coding Instructions. See manual.
101	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Date of Diagnosis	Cases Diagnosed Before Birth examples--dates revised	Updated dates in the example.

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105	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Sequence Number-- Central	Coding Instruction 6 examples--date revised	Non-Malignant Coding Instruction 6: Updated the date in the example.
109	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Primary Site	Coding Instruction for Solid Tumors 15 revised	Revised Coding Instruction 15: When the choice is between ovary, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal without designation of the site of origin, any indication of fallopian tube involvement indicates the primary tumor is a tubal primary. Fallopian tube primary carcinomas can be confirmed by reviewing the fallopian tube sections as described on the pathology report to document the presence of either serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma (STIC) and/or tubal mucosal high-grade serous carcinoma (HGSC). In the absence of fallopian tube involvement, refer to the histology and look at the treatment plans for the patient. If all else fails, assign C579 as a last resort. For additional information, see the CAP Gynecologic protocol, Ovary, Fallopian Tube, or Peritoneum, Table 1: Criteria for Assignment of Primary Site in High-Grade Serous Carcinoma (HGSC).
113	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Laterality	Coding Instruction 2 revised	Revised Coding Instruction 2: Code Laterality using codes 1-5, 9 for all sites listed in the table: Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded
119	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Histologic Type ICD-O-3	ICD-O-3.2 Update section updated	The 2026 ICD-O-3.2 Update Guidelines provides the changes to ICD-O-3.2 including new terminology and reportability changes effective for cases diagnosed 01/01/2026 forward. Standard setters have agreed to implement new histology terms and codes for ICD-O-3 based on the current versions of the <i>World Health Organization Classification of Tumors</i> . The update, referred to as ICD-O-3.2, includes comprehensive tables listing histology codes and behavior codes in effect beginning with cases diagnosed in 2021, or as designated. The new codes, new terms, and codes with changes to behavior are available at the NAACCR website .

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120	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Histologic Type ICD-O-3	Histology Coding for Hematopoietic and Lymphatic Primaries section updated	Sentence deleted: <i>See also the NAACCR 2015 Implementation Guidelines and Recommendations: The Hematopoietic Conversion Documentation.</i>
124	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Cancer PathCHART Site - Morphology Combination Standards	Section revised	Updated information in this section. See manual.
135	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Tumor Size Summary	Coding Instruction 14.a.ii revised	Deleted from Coding Instruction 14.a.ii HemeRetic 00830: Excluding Spleen (C422)
136	Section IV: Description of this Neoplasm	Tumor Size Summary	Schema IDs updated	Revised schema names and/or IDs in Table. Schemas for which Tumor Size Affects Staging: Anus 0921 Cervix V9 09520 Lung V9 09360 Major Salivary Glands V9 09081 NET Appendix V9 09320 NET Colon and Rectum V9 09330 NET Pancreas V9 09340 NET Stomach V9 09290 Oropharynx HPV-Associated V9 09100 Oropharynx HPV-Independent 00111 Vulva V9 09500
148	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	Lymphovascular Invasion	Coding Instruction 5 revised	Added language to Coding Instruction 5: Code as present/identified when lymphovascular invasion is identified in any primary tumor specimen except as noted in Coding Instruction 2

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149	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	Lymphovascular Invasion	Coding Instruction 9.a revised	Corrected schema name in Coding Instruction 9.a: Plasma Cell Disorders 00822
164	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	SEER Site- specific Factor 1	Introductory text revised	Revised schemas in the introductory bullet list: Oropharynx HPV-Associated (2018-2025): C019, C024, C051-C052, C090-C091, C098-C099, C100, C102-C104, C108-C109, C111 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary site C111 for 2018-2024 only Oropharynx HPV-Associated (2026): C019, C024, C051-C052, C090-C091, C098-C099, C100, C102-C104, C108-C109 Oropharynx HPV-Independent: C019, C024, C051-C052, C090-C091, C098-C099, C100, C102-C104, C108-C109, C111 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary site C111 for 2018-2024 only Moved text below the list to the introductory paragraph.
165	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	SEER Site- specific Factor 1	Coding Instructions 4, 5, and 6 revised	Revised the following: Coding Instruction 4: Codes 10-51 are hierarchical; use the highest code that applies (10 is lowest, 51 is highest). (Note removed also) Coding Instruction 5: For cases in the Oropharynx HPV-Associated schema Coding Instruction 6 For cases in the Oropharynx HPV-Independent schema
166	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	Additional Stage-related Data Items/SSDIs	Section updated including removed tables	Revised introductory paragraphs. Removed Tables formerly 1-7. See manual. Added: Table 1: Site-specific Data Items Implemented in 2026 Spread Through Air Spaces (STAS) Lung, 1176 Residual Cancer Burden (RCB) Breast, 1178 Residual Cancer Burden (RCB) Class Breast, 1179 Microsatellite Instability (MSI), Corpus Uteri Carcinoma and Carcinosarcoma, 3890

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166	Section VI: Stage-related Data Items	Additional Stage-related Data Items/SSDIs	Section updated including removed tables (Continued)	<p>Table 2: Schemas Added and Modified for 2026</p> <p><i>Added:</i></p> <p>Oropharynx HPV-Associated [V9: 2026+] Major Salivary Glands [V9: 2026+]</p> <p><i>Modified:</i></p> <p>Oropharynx HPV-Associated [8th: 2018-2025] (renamed) Oropharynx HPV-Independent (renamed) Nasopharynx [V9: 2025+] (see Note)</p> <p>Note: C111 was removed from Schema Discriminator 1 [3926] for Nasopharynx/Pharyngeal Tonsil; C111 is included in Nasopharynx [V9: 2025+] retroactive to 2025.</p> <p>Deleted former Table 8: Additional Site-specific Data Items Required for Transmission (See NAACCR Vol II Required Status Table for more information.)</p>
174	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Date Therapy Initiated	Coding Instruction 4 dates in example revised	See manual.
174	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Date Therapy Initiated	Coding Instruction 5 revised	Added text to Coding Instruction 5: Code the date unproven therapy (cancer treatments administered by nonmedical personnel) was initiated as the date therapy initiated
177	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Date of Most Definitive Surgical Resection of the Primary Site	Text revised	Revised first introductory paragraph: <i>Date of Most Definitive Surgical Resection of the Primary Site</i> , effective 01/01/2018, captures the date of the most definitive (most invasive) surgical procedure of the primary site performed as part of the first course of therapy.
179	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Surgery of Primary Site 2023	Coding Instruction 12 example revised	Revised Coding Instruction 12: Code A980 for the following primary sites unless the case is death certificate only (see #13 and #14 below)
182	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Breast Reconstruction	Coding Instruction 5 revised	Added text to Coding Instruction 5: Do not record reconstruction performed on a different day than the breast primary definitive (most invasive) resection

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194	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Regional Nodes Positive	Coding Instruction 3 revised	Revised Coding Instruction 3, second sentence, codes that are not allowed: True in situ cases cannot have positive lymph nodes, so the only allowable codes are 00 (negative) or 98 (not examined). Codes 01-90, 95, 97, and 99 are not allowed.
200	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Surgical Procedure of Other Site	Text revised	Added a sentence to the introductory paragraph: This data item is useful in evaluating the extent of metastatic involvement and in documenting whether surgery was performed for tumors having unknown or ill-defined primary sites or hematolymphoid malignancies.
204	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Reason for No Surgery of Primary Site	Coding Instruction 3.e note revised	Revised the note in Coding Instruction 3.e: Note: Cases coded 8 should be followed and updated to a more specific code as appropriate.
212	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Reason for No Radiation	Coding Instruction 4 note revised	Updated the note in Coding Instruction 4: Note: Cases coded 8 should be followed and updated to a more specific code as appropriate.
216	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Chemotherapy	Dates in Example 1 updated	Updated dates in Example 1 following the note under Important update effective for diagnosis date January 1, 2013 forward . See manual.
216	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Chemotherapy	Coding Instruction 2 revised; example added	Updated Coding Instruction 2 including 2.a – c and added an example: 2. The physician may change a chemotherapy agent or one of the agents in a combination regimen, to an agent belonging to a different subcategory (chemotherapeutic agents are grouped as alkylating agents, antimetabolites, natural products, or other miscellaneous) due to reasons other than disease progression (e.g., patient cannot tolerate the original agent) a. This is a continuation of the first course of therapy and does not automatically represent subsequent therapy b. Use SEER*Rx to determine whether the drugs used are classified as chemotherapeutic agents

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216	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Chemotherapy	Coding Instruction 2 revised; example added (Continued)	c. Code a chemotherapeutic agent listed in SEER*Rx as Chemotherapy regardless of the primary site(s) listed in SEER*Rx for that agent. Use SEER*Rx to determine whether the drugs used are classified as chemotherapeutic agents. Example: Patient is diagnosed with a sarcoma. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy is administered (Alectinib). Alectinib is listed in SEER*Rx as a chemotherapeutic agent for Lung and Lymphoma. Code the chemotherapeutic agent under Chemotherapy [NAACCR #1390] regardless of the primary site(s) listed for that agent in SEER*Rx.
219	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Chemotherapy	Chemotherapeu tic Agents edited	Deleted a bullet under Chemotherapeutic Agents, Natural Products: Taxanes: paclitaxel and docetaxel
220	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Chemotherapy	Coding Instruction added	Added a coding instruction under Coding for Tumor Embolization: A drug administered to a patient for treatment, listed in SEER*Rx as a chemotherapeutic agent should be coded as chemotherapy regardless of primary sites listed in SEER*Rx for that agent. Do not code under <i>Other Therapy</i> [NAACCR #1420].
222	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Hormone Therapy	Coding Instruction 1 added	Added Coding Instruction 1: Refer to SEER*Rx to determine whether the drugs used are classified as hormonal agents. A drug administered to a patient for treatment, listed in SEER*Rx as a hormonal agent should be coded as hormone therapy regardless of the primary site(s) listed in SEER*Rx for that agent. Do not code under the data item, <i>Other Therapy</i> [NAACCR #1420].
222	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Hormone Therapy	Coding Instruction 2.a deleted	Removed Coding Instruction 2.a (formerly 1.a): Check SEER*Rx to determine if a hormone agent is part of a combination chemotherapy regimen
227	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Immunotherapy	Dates in example updated	Updated dates in Example 1 following the note under Important update effective for diagnosis date January 1, 2013 forward. See manual.
228	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Immunotherapy	Coding Instruction 1 added	Added Coding Instruction 1: Refer to SEER*Rx to determine whether the drugs used are classified as immunotherapeutic agents. A drug administered to a patient for treatment, listed in SEER*Rx as an immunotherapeutic agent should be coded as immunotherapy regardless of the primary site(s) listed in SEER*Rx for that agent. Do not code under <i>Other Therapy</i> [NAACCR #1420].

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235	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Neoadjuvant Therapy	Definition revised	Surgical resection: For purposes of this data item, surgical resection is defined as the most definitive (most invasive) surgical procedure that removes some or all of the primary tumor or site. For many sites, this would be Surgical Codes A300-A800 or B300-B800; however, there are some sites where surgical codes less than A300 or B300 could be used, for example, code B290 for Breast (central lumpectomy).
243	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Neoadjuvant Therapy-- Treatment Effect	Definition revised	Surgical resection: For purposes of this data item, surgical resection is defined as the most definitive (most invasive) surgical procedure that removes some or all of the primary tumor or site. For many sites, this would be Surgical Codes A300-A800 or B300-B800; however, there are some sites where surgical codes less than A300 or B300 could be used, for example, code B290 for Breast (central lumpectomy).
247	Section VII: First Course of Therapy	Other Therapy	Coding Instruction 2, Note added	Added note to Coding Instruction 2: Do not code <i>Other Therapy</i> [#1420] when a chemotherapeutic agent listed in SEER*Rx was administered to a patient for treatment but not for the primary site listed for that agent in SEER*Rx. Code treatment as <i>Chemotherapy</i> [#1390]."
253	Section VIII: Follow Up	Cancer Status	Coding Instruction 2 revised	Updated Coding Instruction 2: Assign code 2 when there is an indication of this tumor, for example, patient died or is continuing active treatment for this tumor
253	Section VIII: Follow Up	Cancer Status	Coding Instruction 3 and examples added	Added Coding Instruction 3: Use information from an official source such as a health care provider, the patient's physician, or other information such as a death certificate Example 1: Margin status along with additional information that determine cancer status. Example 2: Stage and outcome of neoadjuvant or other therapy.
280	Section IX: Administrativ e Codes	Over-ride Flag for Name/Sex Assigned at Birth	Item Name changed	Revised data item name: <i>Over-ride Flag for Name/Sex Assigned at Birth</i>
	Appendix A	County Codes	References information updated	Updated references and dates references accessed.
	Appendix B	Country and State Codes	Edits made	Edited references and updated dates references accessed. Corrected USPS State Code for Saint Lucia in Appendix B1: Alphabetic Code List by Country/State.

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	Appendix C: Site Specific Coding Modules	Neoadjuvant Therapy-- Treatment Effect: Bladder	Site-specific codes for Bladder added	Added a new site-specific coding document for Bladder. See manual.
	Appendix C: Site Specific Coding Modules	Surgery Codes: Prostate	Notes and text revised	<p>Added notes associated with A200 codes: [SEER Note: Assign code A220 for a tumor destruction procedure or other minimally invasive procedure when cancer is an incidental finding during surgery/procedure for benign disease (such as ablation [aqua, cold, heat, laser], Holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HoLEP), or TURP). Use text fields to document the details.]</p> <p>Any combination of A200, A210, or A230 WITH (excludes incidental findings) A240 Cryosurgery A250 Laser A260 Hyperthermia [SEER Note: Assign code A250 for HoLEP when a specimen is sent to pathology and patient has suspected/known cancer.]</p>
	Appendix C: Site Specific Coding Modules	Surgery Codes: Skin	Note added	<p>Added note associated with B200 codes: Note: Elliptical/fusiform excisions are eye shape excisions around the circle outlining the amount of normal skin to take during the excision and are performed to allow for a better-looking scar.</p>
	Appendix D	Race and Nationality Descriptions	References and list updated	<p>Updated list of references and links. Removed from Other Race Descriptions: Bushwalker Chocolate Coffee Cosmopolitan Half Breed Issues Remove one Multinational (listed twice) Remove one Multiethnic (listed twice) Rainbow</p> <p>Moved North African from Other Race Descriptions (Code 99) to White (Code 01)</p>

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	Appendix E	E.1 Reportable Examples	Reportable example #14 revised	Updated Example #14 and link: Liver cases with an LI-RADS category LR-4, LR-5, or LR-M
	Appendix E	E.1 Reportable Examples	Reportable example #29 revised	Updated Example #29: Conjunctival melanocytic intraepithelial lesions (C-MIL); low-grade conjunctival melanocytic intraepithelial lesion (LG-CMIL) with focal high-grade features of the conjunctiva (C690) (8720/2)
	Appendix E	E.2 Non-Reportable Examples	Reportable example #46 added	Added: Cavernous malformation