

# SEER Inquiry System - Report

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## Question 20021136

### References:

#1: SEER Program Code Man, 3rd Ed, 88

#2: 2004 SEER Manual, 66

### Question:

Date of Diagnosis/Histology (Pre-2007): How should we code these fields for "atypical fibroxanthoma" of the left cheek diagnosed in October 1999 that is followed by a June 2000 punch biopsy with a microscopic description in the pathology report of "superficial form of malignant fibrous histiocyoma"? See discussion.

### Discussion:

Should the diagnosis date for the malignant fibrous histiocyoma be October 1999 because it is called "residual/recurrent atypical fibroxanthoma" in the June 2000 final diagnosis of pathology report? In the microscopic description it is called a "malignant fibrous histiocyoma." Per an August 2000 outpatient note, "The patient probably has malignant fibrous histiocyoma. His course has been more aggressive than that seen with an atypical fibroxanthoma."

### Answer:

For tumors diagnosed prior to 2007:

Code the Histology field to 8830/3 [Malignant fibrous histiocyoma]. Code the Date of Diagnosis to October 1999 based on the clinician's statement of "The patient probably has malignant fibrous histiocyoma. His course has been more aggressive than that seen with an atypical fibroxanthoma." Assume that this statement means that the physician re-evaluated the clinical course and decided that the original tumor must have been malignant.

If the original slides are reviewed and the diagnosis is changed to a malignancy or if the clinician states that the first occurrence was obviously malignant, backdate the date of diagnosis to the first occurrence.

For tumors diagnosed 2007 or later, refer to the MP/H rules. If there are still questions about how this type of tumor should be coded, submit a new question to SINQ and include the difficulties you are encountering in applying the MP/H rules.

### Cancer Site Category:

N/A

### Data Item Category:

Histology, Date of diagnosis

### Other Category:

N/A

### Year:

2002