

Head and Neck Histology Coding Rules – Matrix
C000-C148, C300-C329
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia – M-9590 – 9989 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Rule	Pathology/Cytology Specimen	Histology	Behavior	Notes and Examples	Code
SINGLE TUMOR					
H1	No pathology/cytology specimen or the pathology/cytology report is not available			<p>1: Priority for using documents to code the histology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation in the medical record that refers to pathologic or cytologic findings • Physician’s reference to type of cancer (histology) in the medical record • CT, PET or MRI scans <p>2: Code the specific histology when documented.</p> <p>3: Code the histology to 8000 (cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS) or 8010 (carcinoma, NOS) as stated by the physician when nothing more specific is documented</p>	The histology documented by the physician
H2	None from primary site			Code the behavior /3	The histology from metastatic site
H3		One type		<p>Example: Squamous cell carcinoma. Code 8070. Do not code terms that do not appear in the histology description.</p> <p>Example: Do not code 8072 (squamous cell carcinoma non-keratinizing) unless the words “non-keratinizing” actually appear in the diagnosis</p>	The histology
H4			Invasive and in situ	<p>Example: The final diagnosis is keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma (8071) with areas of squamous cell carcinoma in situ (8070). Code the invasive histologic type, keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma (8071).</p>	The invasive histologic type

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Rule	Pathology/Cytology Specimen	Histology	Behavior	Notes and Examples	Code
H5		<p>Multiple histologies all within the same branch on Chart 1.</p> <p>Examples of histologies within same banch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS (8000) and a more specific histology or • Carcinoma, NOS (8010) and a more specific carcinoma or • Squamous cell carcinoma, NOS (8070) and a more specific squamous cell carcinoma or • Adenocarcinoma, NOS (8140) and a more specific adenocarcinoma or • Melanoma, NOS (8720) and a more specific melanoma or • Sarcoma, NOS (8800) and a more specific sarcoma 		<p>1. The specific histology for in situ tumors may be identified as pattern, architecture, type, subtype, predominantly, with features of, major, or with ___differentiation.</p> <p>2. The specific histology for invasive tumors may be identified as type, subtype, predominantly, with features of, major, or with ___differentiation.</p> <p>Example: The final diagnosis is squamous cell carcinoma (8070), papillary (8050). Code the specific type, papillary (8050).</p>	The most specific term using Chart 1
H6	None of the above conditions are met				The histology with the numerically higher ICD-O-3 code

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Rule	Pathology/Cytology Specimen	Histology	Behavior	Notes and Examples	Code
MULTIPLE TUMORS ABSTRACTED AS A SINGLE PRIMARY					
H7	No pathology/cytology specimen or the pathology/cytology report is not available			<p>1: Priority for using documents to code the histology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation in the medical record that refers to pathologic or cytologic findings • Physician’s reference to type of cancer (histology) in the medical record • CT, PET or MRI scans <p>2: Code the specific histology when documented</p> <p>3: Code the histology to 8000 (cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS) or 8010 (carcinoma, NOS) as stated by the physician when nothing more specific is documented</p>	The histology documented by the physician
H8	None from primary site			Code the behavior /3	The histology from a metastatic site
H9		One type		<p>Example: Squamous cell carcinoma. Code 8070.</p> <p>Do not code terms that do not appear in the histology description.</p> <p>Example: Do not code 8072 (squamous cell carcinoma non-keratinizing) unless the words “non-keratinizing” actually appear in the diagnosis</p>	The histology
H10				<p>1: See the Head and Neck Equivalent Terms, Definitions, Charts, Tables and Illustrations for the definition of most invasive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One tumor is in situ and one is invasive, code the histology from the invasive tumor • Both/all histologies are invasive, code the histology of the more invasive tumor. <p>2. If tumors are equally invasive, go to the next rule</p>	The histology of the most invasive tumor

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Rule	Pathology/Cytology Specimen	Histology	Behavior	Notes and Examples	Code
H11		<p>Multiple histologies all within the same branch on Chart 1. Examples of histologies within same branch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS (8000) and a more specific histology or • Carcinoma, NOS (8010) and a more specific carcinoma or • Squamous cell carcinoma, NOS (8070) and a more specific squamous cell carcinoma or • Adenocarcinoma, NOS (8140) and a more specific adenocarcinoma or • Melanoma, NOS (8720) and a more specific melanoma or Sarcoma, NOS (8800) and a more specific sarcoma 		<p>1. The specific histology for in situ tumors may be identified as pattern, architecture, type, subtype, predominantly, with features of, major, or with ___ differentiation.</p> <p>2. The specific histology for invasive tumors may be identified as type, subtype, predominantly, with features of, major, or with ___ differentiation.</p> <p>Example: The final diagnosis is squamous cell carcinoma (8070), papillary (8050). Code the specific type, papillary (8050).</p>	<p>The most specific term using Chart 1</p>
H12	None of the conditions are met			<p>The histology with the numerically higher ICD-O-3 code</p>	