Head and Neck Multiple Primary Rules-Flowchart
(C000-C148, C300-C329)
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590-9989 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

* Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.
** Prepare two or more abstracts. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code to each case abstracted.

**Flowchart Key**
- **Objective**: Determine if there is a single tumor or multiple tumors.
- **Rules**: Use information sources to abstract a single or multiple primaries.

### UNKNOWN IF SINGLE OR MULTIPLE TUMORS

**Decision**: Tumor(s) not described as metastasis.

**Notes**: Use this rule only after all information sources have been exhausted.

**Example 1**: History and physical exam states large tumor in nasopharynx. Biopsy base of tongue shows squamous cell carcinoma. No further information available. Abstract as a single primary.

**Example 2**: Pathology report states extensive squamous cell carcinoma involving nasopharynx and larynx. Fragments of epiglottis positive for squamous cell carcinoma. No other information available. Abstract as a single primary.

### SINGLE TUMOR

**Decision**: 1. Tumor not described as metastasis. 2. Includes combinations of in situ and invasive

**Notes**: The tumor may overlap onto or extend into adjacent/contiguous site or subsite.

---

**Unsure**: Is it impossible to determine if there is a single tumor or multiple tumors?

**M1**: NO

- Go to Single Tumor or Multiple Tumors

**M2**: YES

- SINGLE Primary

**NO**: Go to Single Tumor or Multiple Tumors
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**MULTIPLE TUMORS**
Multiple tumors may be a single primary or multiple primaries.

**DECISION**

**NOTES**
1. Tumors not described as metastases.
2. Includes combinations of in situ and invasive.

See Table 1 for list of paired sites.
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MULTIPLE TUMORS, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MULTIPLE Primaries**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Tumors not described as metastases.
2. Includes combinations of in situ and invasive.

M7
Are there tumors in sites with ICD-O-3 topography codes that are different at the second (Cxx) and/or third character (Cxxx)?

YES → MULTIPLE Primaries**

NO

M8
Is there an invasive tumor following an in situ tumor more than 60 days after diagnosis?

YES → MULTIPLE Primaries**

NO

M9
Are there tumors diagnosed more than five (5) years apart?

YES → MULTIPLE Primaries**

NO

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<th>DECISION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M10</td>
<td>Is there cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS (8000) and another is a specific histology?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there carcinoma, NOS (8010) and another is a specific carcinoma?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there adenocarcinoma, NOS (8140) and another is a specific adenocarcinoma?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there squamous cell carcinoma, NOS (8070) and another is a specific squamous cell carcinoma?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there melanoma, NOS (8720) and another is a specific melanoma?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there sarcoma, NOS (8800) and another is a specific sarcoma?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flowchart Key
- **Flow Direction**: Arrow indicates the direction of the flowchart.
- **Decision**: Diamond shape indicates a decision point.
- **Question**: Square shape indicates a question.
- **Note**: Triangle shape indicates a note or remark.

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---

**M11**

Do the tumors have ICD-O-3 **histology** codes that are **different** at the first (**xxxx**), second (**xxx**) or third (**xx**) number?

**YES**

M11 Multiple Primary**

**NO**

**M12**

Does not meet any of the above criteria (M1 through M11).

**YES**

M12 Single Primary*

End of instructions for Multiple Tumors.

**NO**

ERROR: Recheck rules. Stop when a match is found.

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Tumors not described as metastases.

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**Example 1.** Multifocal tumors in floor of mouth

**Example 2.** An in situ and invasive tumor diagnosed within 60 days

**Example 3.** In situ following an invasive tumor more than 60 days apart

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**Rule M12 Examples:** The following are examples of cases that use Rule M12. This is NOT intended to be an exhaustive set of examples; there are other cases that may be classified as a single primary.

**Warning:** Using only these case examples to determine the number of primaries can result in major errors.