Introduction

Note 1: Tables and rules refer to ICD-O rather than ICD-O-3. The version is not specified to allow for updates. Use the currently approved version of ICD-O.

Note 2: 2007 MPH Rules and 2018 Solid Tumor Rules are used based on date of diagnosis.
- Tumors diagnosed 01/01/2007 through 12/31/2017: Use 2007 MPH Rules
- Tumors diagnosed 01/01/2018 and later: Use 2018 Solid Tumor Rules
- The original tumor diagnosed before 1/1/2018 and a subsequent tumor diagnosed 1/1/2018 or later in the same primary site: Use the 2018 Solid Tumor Rules.

Note 3: For those sites/histologies which have recognized biomarkers, the biomarkers frequently identify the histologic type. Currently, there are clinical trials being conducted to determine whether these biomarkers can be used to identify multiple primaries. Follow the Multiple Primary Rules; do not code multiple primaries based on biomarkers.

Changes from 2007 MPH Rules

- Two bone sites, mandible C410 and maxilla C411, have been added to the Head and Neck Rules.
- External ear C442 has been added to the Head and Neck Rules. Basal cell carcinoma and all non-malignant neoplasms are excluded.
- Autonomic nervous system C479 has been added as a primary site for paragangliomas which are reported as malignant.

Equivalent or Equal Terms

These terms can be used interchangeably:
- Adenocarcinoma; adenocarcinoma NOS; carcinoma; carcinoma NOS
- And; with
  
  Note: “And” and “with” are used as synonyms when describing multiple histologies within a single tumor
- Contiguous; continuous
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- Hypopharynx; laryngopharynx
- Malignant hemangioendothelioma
- In situ; noninvasive; intraepithelial
- Malignant tumor; malignant mass; malignant lesion; malignant neoplasm
- Simultaneous; existing at the same time; concurrent; prior to first course treatment
- Site; topography
- Squamous cell carcinoma; squamous carcinoma; squamous cell epithelioma; epidermoid carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma with sarcomatoid features; sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma with verrucous growth pattern; squamous cell carcinoma
  - Growth pattern is not a histological type
- Tumor; mass; tumor mass; lesion; neoplasm
  - The terms tumor, mass, tumor mass, lesion, and neoplasm are not used in a standard manner in clinical diagnoses, scans, or consults. Disregard the terms unless there is a physician’s statement that the term is malignant/cancer
  - These terms are used ONLY to determine multiple primaries
  - Do not use these terms for casefinding or determining reportability

Terms that are NOT Equivalent or Equal

This is a list of terms that are not equivalent. There are no casefinding implications.

- **Component** is not equivalent to subtype/variant
  - **Note:** Component is only coded when the pathologist specifies the component as a second carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma with prominent keratinization 8070, keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8071
- Fibromyxosarcoma 8811, myxofibrosarcoma 8830
- Salivary gland adenocarcinoma 8140, salivary duct carcinoma 8500
Instructions for Coding Primary Site

Note: There are ongoing studies to determine whether biomarkers can identify a primary site. Currently, there is not a consensus about whether or not biomarkers can identify primary site. Do not code primary site based on biomarkers.

Identifying the primary site is difficult because:
1. Workups (PE scans, endoscopies, biopsies) each provide a unique view of the tumor, therefore the medical record often contains conflicting documentation on the primary site.
2. The sites/organs are small and right next to each other. Tumors frequently extend into adjacent anatomic sites, or overlap multiple contiguous sites.

Rules for Identifying Primary Site in priority order:

1. Tumor Board
   A. Specialty
   B. General

2. Tissue/pathology from tumor resection or biopsy
   A. Operative report
   B. Addendum and/or comments on tissue/pathology report
   C. Final diagnosis on issue/pathology report
   D. CAP protocol/summary

3. Scans
   A. CT
   B. MRI
   C. PET

4. Physician documentation. Use the documentation in the following priority order:
   A. Physician’s reference in medical record to primary site from original pathology, cytology, or scan(s)
   B. Physician’s reference to primary site in the medical record

5. Use Tables 2-10 to assist in assigning primary site when a SINGLE lesion overlaps two or more sites.
   A. Go to the appropriate table for each involved site (use the hyperlinked index below).
   B. Compare the histology diagnosis to the histologies in the table for each of the involved sites.
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C. When the histology diagnosis is listed for only one primary site (only listed in one table), code that primary site.
6. When the primary site cannot be determined using previous instructions, code as follows for an overlapping lesion:
   A. C028 Overlapping lesion of tongue (See Table 5 for subsites of the tongue)
   B. C088 Overlapping lesion of major salivary glands (See Table 7 for specific salivary glands)
   C. C148 Overlapping lesion of lip, oral cavity and pharynx
      Note: Codes and terms for overlapping lesions C__8 are not included in the tables

7. Code to the NOS region
   A. C069 Mouth NOS (See Table 5 for mouth subsites)
   B. C089 Major Salivary Gland NOS (See Table 7 for specific salivary glands)
   C. C099 Tonsil NOS (See Table 6 for tonsil subsites)
   D. C109 Oropharynx NOS (See Table 6 for oropharynx subsites)
   E. C119 Nasopharynx NOS (See Table 3 for nasopharynx subsites)
   F. C139 Hypopharynx NOS (See Table 4 for hypopharynx subsites)
   G. C140 Pharynx NOS
      Note: Pharynx NOS includes the oropharynx, nasopharynx, and hypopharynx.
   H. C760 Head, face, or neck NOS (organs involved unknown/not documented)
      Note: This code is used in circumstances such as biopsy of lymph node and no information about primary site
      • Patient lost to follow-up; no further information available
      • Patient/family declined further work-up or treatment
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## Table 1: Contiguous Sites

This is a reference table currently under development. It is not used to determine multiple primaries or to assign histology.
Table 2: Tumors of Nasal Cavity, Paranasal Sinuses and Skull base

Table 2 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

- **C300** Nasal cavity; naris; nasal cartilage; nasal mucosa; nasal septum NOS; nasal turbinate; nostril; vestibule of nose
- **C310** Maxillary sinus; maxillary antrum; antrum NOS
- **C311** Ethmoid sinus
- **C312** Frontal sinus
- **C313** Sphenoid sinus
- **C318** Overlapping lesion of accessory sinuses
- **C319** Accessory sinus NOS; accessory nasal sinus; paranasal sinus

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the Hematopoietic Database.

**Note:** Hematopoietic tumors are common to the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses.

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.
- **Specific** histology terms **do not** have subtypes/variants
- **NOS** histology terms **do** have subtypes/variants.

**Column 2** contains synonyms for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the same histology code as the specific or NOS term.

**Column 3** contains subtypes/variants of the NOS histology. Subtypes/variants **do not** have the same histology code as the NOS.

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## Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma 8140</td>
<td>Adenocarcinoma non-intestinal type&lt;br&gt;Low-grade adenocarcinoma&lt;br&gt;Renal cell-like carcinoma&lt;br&gt;Seromucinous adenocarcinoma&lt;br&gt;TAC&lt;br&gt;Terminal tubulous adenocarcinoma&lt;br&gt;Tubulopapillary low-grade adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Adenocarcinoma intestinal type (ITAC) 8144&lt;br&gt;Colloid-type adenocarcinoma 8144&lt;br&gt;Colonic-type adenocarcinoma 8144&lt;br&gt;Enteric-type adenocarcinoma 8144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Adenocarcinoma intestinal-type of the sinonasal tract is morphologically similar to adenocarcinomas of the intestines

| Lymphoepithelial carcinoma 8082 | LEC | Lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma |
| Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor 9540/3 | Malignant neurilemmoma<br>Malignant schwannoma<br>MPNST<br>Neurofibrosarcoma |
| Mucoepidermoid carcinoma 8430 | Salivary gland-type mucoepidermoid carcinoma |
| Mucosal melanoma 8720 |
| Myoepithelial carcinoma 8982 | Myoepithelioma, malignant |
| Non-keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8072 | Cylindrical cell carcinoma<br>NKSCC<br>Schneiderian carcinoma<br>Transitional cell carcinoma |
| NUT carcinoma 8023* | Midline carcinoma of children and young adults with NUT rearrangement<br>NUT midline carcinoma |
# Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions

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(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Olfactory neuroblastoma 9522/3** | Olfactory neuroblastoma  
Esthesioneuroblastoma  
Esthesioneurocytoma  
Esthesioneuroepithelioma  
Olfactory placode tumor  
ONB | |
| **Primitive neuroectodermal tumor 9364** | Adult neuroblastoma  
Ewings sarcoma  
Peripheral neuroblastoma  
Peripheral neuroectodermal tumor  
Peripheral neuroepithelioma | |
| **Sarcoma 8800/3** | Angiosarcoma/hemangiosarcoma 9120/3  
Biphenotypic sinonasal sarcoma (BSNS)/low-grade sinonasal sarcoma with neural and myogenic features 9045/3*  
Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma 9133/3  
Fibrosarcoma/adult-type fibrosarcoma 8810/3  
Leiomyosarcoma 8890/3  
Rhabdomyosarcoma 8900/3  
Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma 8920/3  
Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma 8910/3  
Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma, adult type 8901/3  
Spindle cell rhabdomyosarcoma 8912/3  
Synovial sarcoma/synovial cell sarcoma 9040/3  
Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma/malignant fibrous histiocytoma 8802/3 | |

*Note:* Angiosarcomas are coded to the organ in which they occur. The prognosis and disease process of angiosarcomas differ between sites. Contiguous organs, blood vessels, and lymph nodes are not the same for every organ.

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Head and Neck Solid Tumor Rules 2018
### Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions

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(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinonasal undifferentiated carcinoma 8020</td>
<td>Sinonasal carcinoma, undifferentiated SNUC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Note:</em> This is an undifferentiated carcinoma of the Sinonasal tract.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma 8070</td>
<td></td>
<td>Keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma (KSCC) 8071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma/spindle cell squamous cell carcinoma (SC-SCC) 8074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teratocarcinosarcoma 9081</td>
<td>Blastoma</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malignant teratoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teratocarcinoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teratoid carcinosarcoma</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* Sinonasal squamous cell tumors account for about 3% of head and neck malignancies.

* These new codes were approved by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O
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Table 3: Tumors of Nasopharynx

Table 3 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

- **C110** Superior wall of nasopharynx; roof of nasopharynx
- **C111** Posterior wall of nasopharynx only (does not include adenoid/pharyngeal tonsil)
- **C112** Lateral wall of nasopharynx; fossa of Rosenmuller
- **C113** Anterior wall of nasopharynx; nasopharyngeal surface of soft palate; pharyngeal fornix; choana; posterior margin of nasal septum
- **C118** Overlapping lesion of nasopharynx. Use only when a single lesion overlaps subsites of the hypopharynx.
  *Example:* A single tumor overlaps C110 superior wall of nasopharynx and C111 posterior wall of the nasopharynx.
- **C119** Nasopharynx NOS; nasopharyngeal wall; use when a specific subsite cannot be identified.
  *Example:* The primary site is designated as pharyngeal wall. It is unknown whether it is the superior, posterior lateral, or anterior wall.

**Note 1:** The nasopharynx is the upper part of the pharynx. It is above the soft palate and extends to the nasal passages.

**Note 2:** Nasopharyngeal tumors are usually assigned to the subsite in which they occur.

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the Hematopoietic Database.

**Note:** Hematopoietic tumors are common to the nasopharynx.

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.

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**Column 2** contains synonyms for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the same histology code as the specific or NOS term.

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Table begins on next page.
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(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adenoid cystic carcinoma 8200</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chordoma 9370</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasopharyngeal papillary adenocarcinoma 8260</td>
<td>Thyroid-like low-grade nasopharyngeal; papillary adenocarcinoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma NOS 8070</td>
<td>Lymphoepithelial carcinoma Undifferentiated carcinoma Undifferentiated carcinoma with lymphoid stroma</td>
<td>Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma 8083 Keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8071 Non-keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Table 4: Tumors of Pyriform Sinus, Hypopharynx, Larynx, Trachea, and Parapharyngeal Space

Table 4 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

- **C129** Pyriform sinus
- **C130** Postcricoid region; cricopharynx cricoid NOS
- **C131** Hypopharyngeal aspect of aryepiglottic fold; aryepiglottic fold NOS; arytenoid fold
- **C132** Posterior wall of hypopharynx
- **C138** Overlapping lesion of hypopharynx. Use only when a single lesion overlaps subsites of the hypopharynx. **Example:** A single tumor overlaps C130 postcricoid region and C131 aryepiglottic fold.
- **C139** Hypopharynx NOS and parapharyngeal space. Use only when the subsite/site is unknown
- **C320** Glottis; intrinsic larynx; laryngeal commissure; vocal cord NOS; true vocal cord; true cord
- **C321** Supraglottis; epiglottis NOS (excludes anterior surface of epiglottis); extrinsic larynx; laryngeal aspect of aryepiglottic fold; posterior surface of epiglottis; ventricular band of larynx; false vocal cord; false cord
- **C322** Subglottis
- **C323** Laryngeal cartilage; arytenoid cartilage; cricoid cartilage; cuneiform cartilage; thyroid cartilage
- **C328** Overlapping lesion of larynx
- **C329** Larynx NOS
- **C339** Trachea

**Note 1:** The **hypopharynx** is in the inferior position of the three segments of pharynx. The hypopharynx links the oropharynx to the esophagus, lower part of the pharynx. The pyriform sinus is located in the hypopharynx.

**Note 2:** The **larynx** is only 1 1/2 inches. It is inferior to the hyoid bone and tongue. It is anterior to the esophagus.

**Note 3:** The **trachea** starts where larynx ends and continues down the middle of the neck anterior to the esophagus.

**Note 4:** The **parapharyngeal space** is an equivalent of the lateral pharyngeal space which includes the soft tissue, vessels and skeletal muscles supporting the mechanics of the pharynx. Code the specific site when the soft tissue, vessel, or skeletal muscle is documented. When specific information is not available/not documented, code hypopharynx NOS, C139.

**Note 5:** These primary sites are mostly composed of muscle and cartilage, but the most common tumors arise from the epithelial lining of the structures (squamous cell carcinoma, for example).
For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the [Hematopoietic Database](#).

**Note:** Hematopoietic tumors are common to the hypopharynx, larynx and trachea.

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**Column 3** contains subtypes/variants of the NOS histology. Subtypes/variants **do not** have the **same** histology code as the NOS.

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<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adenoid cystic carcinoma 8200</td>
<td>ACC (rare)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Chondrosarcoma 9220            | Chondrosarcoma grade 2/3  
Well-differentiated liposarcoma |                   |
| Liposarcoma 8850               | Atypical lipomatous tumor  
Well-differentiated liposarcoma |                   |
| Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) 8070 | Epidermoid carcinoma  
Squamous cell carcinoma NOS | Adenosquamous carcinoma (ASC) 8560  
Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma (BSCC) 8083  
Lymphoepithelial carcinoma (LEC)/lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma 8082  
Papillary squamous cell carcinoma (PSCC) 8052  
Spindle cell squamous cell carcinoma (SC-SCC) 8074  
Verrucous squamous cell carcinoma (VC) 8051 |
| Well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma 8240 | Carcinoid  
Neuroendocrine carcinoma grade 1 | Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma/LCNEC 8013  
Neuroendocrine carcinoma grade 2/moderately-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma/atypical carcinoid 8249  
Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma/small cell carcinoma/SmCC 8041 |
Table 5 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

The **oral cavity category** includes the following:

**Mobile Tongue:**
- **C020** Dorsal surface of tongue NOS
- **C021** Border of tongue
- **C022** Ventral surface of tongue NOS
- **C023** Anterior 2/3 of tongue NOS
- **C024** Lingual tonsil
- **C028** Overlapping lesion of tongue
- **C029** Tongue NOS

**Gum:**
- **C030** Upper gum, maxillary gingiva, upper alveolar mucosa, upper alveolar ridge mucosa, upper alveolus, upper gingiva;
- **C031** Lower gum mandibular gingiva, lower alveolar mucosa, lower alveolar ridge mucosa, lower alveolus, lower gingiva,
- **C039** Gum NOS, gingiva NOS, alveolar mucosa NOS, alveolar ridge mucosa NOS, alveolar NOS periodontal tissue, tooth socket

**Floor of Mouth:**
- **C040** Anterior floor of mouth
- **C041** Lateral floor of mouth
- **C048** Overlapping lesion floor of mouth
- **C049** Floor of mouth NOS

**Palate:**
- **C050** Hard palate
- **C051** Soft palate
- **C052** Uvula
- **C058** Overlapping lesion of palate, junction of hard and soft palate
- **C059** Palate NOS, roof of mouth

**Other and unspecified parts of Mouth:**
- **C060** Cheek mucosa, buccal mucosa, internal cheek
C061 Vestibule of mouth, alveolar sulcus, buccal sulcus, labial sulcus
C062 Retromolar area, retromolar triangle, retromolar trigone
C068 Overlapping lesion of other and unspecified parts of mouth
C069 Mouth NOS, buccal cavity, oral cavity, oral mucosa, minor salivary gland NOS

*Note:* There is no ICD-O site code for minor salivary glands. Many minor salivary glands are located in the lips, inner cheek (buccal mucosa) and there are extensive minor salivary glands in the linings of the mouth and throat. Code to the site in which the salivary gland is located.

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the [Hematopoietic Database](#).  

*Note:* Hematopoietic tumors are common to the oral cavity.

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.  
- **Specific** histology terms do not have **subtypes/variants**  
- **NOS** histology terms do have **subtypes/variants**.

**Column 2** contains **synonyms** for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the **same** histology code as the specific or NOS term.

**Column 3** contains **subtypes/variants** of the **NOS** histology. Subtypes/variants do not have the **same** histology code as the NOS term.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaposi sarcoma 9140</td>
<td>Kaposi disease</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucoepidermoid carcinoma 8430</td>
<td>Mucoepidermoid tumor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myofibroblastic sarcoma 8825</td>
<td>Myofibrosarcoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral mucosal melanoma 8720</td>
<td>Squamous carcinoma, Squamous cell carcinoma NOS</td>
<td>Acantholytic squamous cell carcinoma 8075</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These new codes were approved by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O
Table 6: Tumors of the Oropharynx, Base of Tongue, Tonsils, Adenoids

Table 6 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

**Oropharynx:**
- C100 Vallecula
- C101 Anterior surface of epiglottis
- C102 Lateral wall of oropharynx; lateral wall of nasopharynx
- C103 Posterior wall of oropharynx; posterior wall of nasopharynx
- C104 Brachial cleft
- C108 Overlapping lesion of oropharynx; junctional region of oropharynx
- C109 Oropharynx NOS; mesopharynx NOS; fauces NOS. Use this code only when the subsite has not been identified a subsite as the origin of the lesion.
  
  **Note:** Code overlapping lesion of oropharynx; junctional region of oropharynx C108 when a single tumor overlaps subsites of the oropharynx. For example, a single lesion which overlaps the vallecular and the anterior surface of the epiglottis.
- C019 Base of tongue

**Tonsils:**
- C090 Tonsillar fossa
- C091 Tonsillar pillar
- C098 Overlapping lesion of tonsil
- C099 Tonsil NOS
- C111 Adenoids/pharyngeal tonsil (does not include posterior wall of nasopharynx)

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the [Hematopoietic Database](#).

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<tbody>
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<td>Adenoid cystic carcinoma 8200</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymorphous adenocarcinoma 8525</td>
<td>Cribriform adenocarcinoma Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma Terminal duct carcinoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma 8070</td>
<td>Keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8071 Non-keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma 8072 Squamous cell carcinoma HPV-negative 8086* Squamous cell carcinoma HPV-positive 8085*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These new codes were approved by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O
Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Table 7: Tumors of Salivary Glands

Table 7 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:
- **C079** Parotid gland, parotid NOS Stensen duct, parotid gland duct
- **C080** Submandibular gland, submaxillary gland, Wharton duct, submaxillary gland duct
- **C081** Sublingual gland; sublingual gland duct
- **C088** Overlapping lesion of major salivary glands
- **C089** Major salivary gland NOS; salivary gland NOS

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the Hematopoietic Database.

*Note:* Hematopoietic neoplasms are common in the major salivary glands.

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.
- **Specific** histology terms do not have subtypes/variants
- **NOS** histology terms do have subtypes/variants.

**Column 2** contains synonyms for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the same histology code as the specific or NOS term.

**Column 3** contains subtypes/variants of the NOS histology. Subtypes/variants do not have the same histology code as the NOS.

Table begins on next page
**Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions**  
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479  
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acinic cell carcinoma 8550</td>
<td>ACC</td>
<td>Basal cell adenocarcinoma 8147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basal cell adenocarcinoma-ex-monomorphic adenoma 8147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Malignant dermal analogue tumor 8147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carcinoma ex-pleomorphic adenoma 8941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clear cell carcinoma (CCC)/hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma 8310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cribriform adenocarcinoma 8201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intestinal-type adenocarcinoma 8144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large cell carcinoma NOS/large cell undifferentiated carcinoma 8012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lobular carcinoma 8520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mucinous cyst adenocarcinoma 8470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MEC)/malignant mucoepidermoid tumor 8430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma 8140</td>
<td>Adenocarcinoma NOS</td>
<td>Papillary cyst adenocarcinoma 8450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unclassified adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Polymorphous adenocarcinoma (PAC) 8525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salivary gland adenocarcinoma NOS</td>
<td>Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma 8525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Terminal duct carcinoma 8525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Salivary duct carcinoma 8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cribriform cyst adenocarcinoma low-grade 8500/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ductal carcinoma/adenocarcinoma 8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High-grade ductal carcinoma 8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intraductal carcinoma 8500/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intraductal carcinoma low-grade 8500/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Undifferentiated carcinoma 8020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific or NOS Term and Code</td>
<td>Synonyms</td>
<td>Subtypes/Variants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenoid cystic carcinoma 8200</td>
<td>ACC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcinosarcoma 8980</td>
<td>Carcinosarcoma NOS</td>
<td>True malignant mixed tumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cystadenocarcinoma 8440</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma 8562</td>
<td>Adenomyoepithelioma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoepithelial carcinoma (LEC) 8082</td>
<td>Lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma</td>
<td>Malignant lymphoepithelial lesion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Undifferentiated carcinoma with lymphoid stroma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myoepithelial carcinoma 8982</td>
<td>Malignant myoepithelioma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroendocrine carcinoma 8246</td>
<td>Neuroendocrine carcinoma NOS</td>
<td>Large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma 8013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small cell carcinoma NOS/small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma 8041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncoytic carcinoma 8290</td>
<td>Malignant oncocytoma</td>
<td>Oncocytic adenocarcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebaceous adenocarcinoma 8410</td>
<td>Sebaceous carcinoma. NOS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretory carcinoma 8502*</td>
<td>Mammary analog secretory carcinoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma 8070</td>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>Squamous carcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma NOS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These new codes were approved by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O
**Table 8: Tumors of Odontogenic and Maxillofacial Bone (Mandible, Maxilla)**

Table 8 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:
- C410 Bones of skull and face and associated joints; maxilla
- C411 Mandible; jaw bone NOS; lower jaw bone; temporomandibular joint

*Note:* The term odontogenic means originating in tooth forming tissue and bone. Code the primary site listed on the pathology report. The common primary sites include the maxillofacial skeleton (C410 maxilla and C411 mandible)

There are no hematopoietic neoplasms common to odontogenic bone or tissue. If a hematopoietic neoplasm such as lymphomas, myelomas, plasmacytoma etc., is diagnosed, verify the primary site. If the primary site is correct, see the [Hematopoietic Database](#).

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.
- **Specific** histology terms do not have subtypes/variants
- **NOS** histology terms do have subtypes/variants.

**Column 2** contains synonyms for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the same histology code as the specific or NOS term.

**Column 3** contains subtypes/variants of the NOS histology. Subtypes/variants do not have the same histology code as the NOS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ameloblastic carcinoma-primary type 9270/3</td>
<td>AC Ameloblastic carcinoma Ameloblastic carcinoma, dedifferentiated Ameloblastic carcinoma, secondary type Primary intraosseous carcinoma NOS (PIOC) Sclerosing odontogenic carcinoma (SOC)</td>
<td>Metastasizing ameloblastoma 9310/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* This is an ameloblastoma which has a benign appearance but metastasizes
### Clear cell odontogenic carcinoma 9341*

**Note:** Clear cell odontogenic tumors were classified as benign prior to the 2005 edition of WHO Pathology & Genetics Head and Neck Tumors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clear cell odontogenic carcinoma 9341*</td>
<td>CCOC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ghost cell odontogenic carcinoma 9302*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghost cell odontogenic carcinoma 9302*</td>
<td>Aggressive epithelial ghost cell odontogenic tumor Calcifying ghost cell odontogenic carcinoma Carcinoma arising in calcifying odontogenic cyst Malignant calcifying ghost cell odontogenic tumor Malignant calcifying odontogenic cyst Malignant epithelial odontogenic ghost cell tumor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Odontogenic carcinosarcoma 8980/3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Odontogenic carcinosarcoma 8980/3</td>
<td>Malignant odontogenic mixed tumor</td>
<td>Malignant ameloblastoma/classic ameloblastoma 9310/3 Odontogenic sarcoma/ameloblastic fibrosarcoma 9330/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Specific or NOS Term and Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Subtypes/Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarcoma NOS 8800/3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Osteosarcoma 9180/3 has subtypes/variants:
- Chondroblastic osteosarcoma 9181/3
- Intraosseous well-differentiated osteosarcoma/low-grade central osteosarcoma 9187/3
- Parosteal osteosarcoma 9192/3
- Periosteal osteosarcoma 9193/3

**Note 2:** Chondrosarcoma grade 2/3 9920/3 has a subtype/variant:
- Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma 9240/3

Chondrosarcoma grade 2/3 9220/3
- Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma 9240/3
- Osteosarcoma/osteogenic sarcoma 9180/3
- Chondroblastic osteosarcoma 9181/3
- Intraosseous well-differentiated osteosarcoma/low-grade central osteosarcoma 9187/3
- Parosteal osteosarcoma 9192/3
- Periosteal osteosarcoma 9193/3

* These new codes were approved by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O
Table 9 lists the more common histologies for the following head and neck subsites:

- **C301** Middle ear; inner ear; auditory tube; eustachian tube; mastoid antrum; tympanic cavity
- **C442** External ear; external auditory canal

*Note:* External ear/skin excludes basal cell carcinoma and all non-malignant neoplasms

**Note 1:** Use Head and Neck Rules to report skin primaries of external ear C442 only.

**Note 2:** Use the Malignant Melanoma Rules for a melanoma in skin of ear; use the Other Sites Rules for reportable skin cancers.

**Note 3:** See the SEER Manual and/or COC Manual for reportability of skin tumors.

For hematopoietic neoplasms such as lymphomas, myelomas, etc., see the Hematopoietic Database.

**Column 1** contains specific and NOS histology terms.

- **Specific** histology terms do not have subtypes/variants
- **NOS** histology terms do have subtypes/variants.

**Column 2** contains synonyms for the specific or NOS term. Synonyms have the same histology code as the specific or NOS term.

**Column 3** contains subtypes/variants of the NOS histology. Subtypes/variants do not have the same histology code as the NOS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific or NOS Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ceruminous adenocarcinoma 8420</strong></td>
<td>Ceruminal adenocarcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Note:</em> The primary site is ceruminous gland C442.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Endolymphatic sac tumor 8140** | Adenocarcinoma  
Heftner tumor  
Low-grade papillary adenocarcinoma of endolymphatic sac origin |
| *Note:* The endolymphatic sac is located within the inner ear C301. |
| **Squamous cell carcinoma of the middle ear 8070** | SCC  
Squamous carcinoma  
Squamous cell carcinoma NOS |
| *Note:* This neoplasm arises in the squamous epithelium within the middle ear C301. |
Table 10 lists interim codes for paragangliomas. ICD-O-3 lists paraganglioma as 8690/0 and 8690/1. New codes and malignant behavior were proposed by the IARC/WHO Committee for ICD-O, but the new codes have not been implemented for use in 2018.

Only report these neoplasms when the pathology/tissue specifies malignant behavior /3. Change the behavior using ICD-O-3 Rule F Matrix Concept.

The primary site for paragangliomas is the autonomic nervous system C479.

Definitions

- **Ganglion**: A group of nerve cell bodies located outside the central nervous system.
- **Sympathetic nervous system**: It is a part of the autonomic nervous system and contains adrenergic fibers which depress secretion, decrease tone and contractility of smooth muscle and increase heart rate.

**Column 1** lists ICD-O histology term and code for specific histologies which do not have subtypes/variants. **Column 2** lists synonyms for the specific term. Synonyms have the same ICD-O code as the specific term.

**Table begins on next page**
### Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions

**C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479**  
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Term and Code</th>
<th>Synonyms for Specific Histology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Carotid body paraganglioma 8690** | Carotid body tumor  
| | Chemodectoma, carotid  
| | Non-chromaffin paraganglioma, carotid |
| **Note 1:** This neoplasm is only reportable when documented as malignant/invasive /3 behavior. |  |
| **Note 2:** Cases diagnosed as malignant in 2018 should be reported as 8690/3. The proposed new code, 8692/3, cannot be used because it has not been implemented. |  |
| **Laryngeal paraganglioma 8690** | Chemodectoma, laryngeal  
| | Non-chromaffin paraganglioma, laryngeal |
| **Note 1:** This neoplasm is only reportable when documented as malignant/invasive /3 behavior. |  |
| **Note 2:** Cases diagnosed as malignant in 2018 should be reported as 8690/3. The proposed new code, 8693/3, cannot be used because it has not been implemented. |  |
| **Note 3:** Vagal paraganglioma has the same histology code as laryngeal paraganglioma. Laryngeal and vagal are in separate rows to emphasize the primary site. |  |
| **Middle ear paraganglioma 8690** | Glomus jugulare tumor of middle ear  
| | Glomus tympanicum  
| | Jugulotympanic chemodectoma |
| **Vagal paraganglioma 8690** | Glomus jugulare tumor of vagal trunk  
| | Chemodectoma of vagal trunk  
| | Non-chromaffin paraganglioma of vagal trunk |
| **Note 1:** This neoplasm is only reportable when documented as malignant/invasive /3 behavior. |  |
| **Note 2:** Cases diagnosed as malignant in 2018 should be reported as 8690/3. The proposed new code, 8693/3, cannot be used because it has not been implemented. |  |
| **Note 3:** Vagal paraganglioma has the same histology code as laryngeal paraganglioma. Laryngeal and vagal are in separate rows to emphasize the primary site. |  |
Table 11: Paired Sites

Laterality **must be coded** for all of the following sites. SEER does allow coding laterality for sites not listed in Table 11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paired Sites</th>
<th>Site Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frontal sinus</td>
<td>C312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxillary sinus</td>
<td>C310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle ear</td>
<td>C301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal cavity (excluding nasal cartilage, nasal septum)</td>
<td>C300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlapping lesion of tonsil</td>
<td>C098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parotid gland</td>
<td>C079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sublingual gland</td>
<td>C081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submandibular gland</td>
<td>C080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonsillar fossa</td>
<td>C090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonsillar pillar</td>
<td>C091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonsil NOS</td>
<td>C099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)
Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
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Larynx

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Jump to Multiple Primary Rules
Jump to Histology Coding Rules

Head and Neck Solid Tumor Rules 2018 30
Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)
Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
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Head and Neck Equivalent Terms and Definitions
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

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Head and Neck Multiple Primary Rules
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Note 1: These rules are NOT used for tumor(s) described as metastases.
Note 2: 2007 MPH Rules and 2018 Solid Tumor Rules are used based on date of diagnosis.
  • Tumors diagnosed 01/01/2007 through 12/31/2017: Use 2007 MPH Rules
  • Tumors diagnosed 01/01/2018 and later: Use 2018 Solid Tumor Rules
  • The original tumor diagnosed before 1/1/2018 and a subsequent tumor diagnosed 1/1/2018 or later in the same primary site: Use the 2018 Solid Tumor Rules

Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors

Rule M1 Abstract a single primary\(^1\) when it is not possible to determine if there is a single tumor or multiple tumors.

Note 1: Use this rule only after all information sources have been exhausted
Note 2: Examples of cases with minimal information include
  • Death certificate only (DCO)
  • Cases for which information is limited to pathology report only
    o Outpatient biopsy with no follow-up information available
    o Multiple pathology reports which do not specify whether a single tumor or multiple tumors have been biopsied and/or resected

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

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

Example 3: The central registry receives a pathology report from hospital A. The report is a biopsy of the upper lip mucosa. Hospital B reports a biopsy of the commissure of the lip. There is no information on whether this is a single tumor or whether there are separate tumors on the upper lip mucosa and the commissure of the lip. Code a single primary.

This is the end of instructions for Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors.

\(^1\) Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.
Head and Neck Multiple Primary Rules
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Single Tumor

**IMPORTANT:** If the current tumor was preceded by a tumor in the same primary site, go to the Multiple Tumors module.

**Rule M2**  
Abstract a single primary\(^1\) when there is a single tumor.

*Note 1:* A single tumor is always a single primary.
*Note 2:* The tumor may overlap onto or extend into adjacent/contiguous site or subsites.
*Note 3:* The tumor may have in situ and invasive components.
*Note 4:* The tumor may have two or more histologic components.

This is the end of instructions for Single Tumor.

\(^1\) Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.

Multiple Tumors

**Note:** Multiple tumors may be a single primary or multiple primaries.

**Rule M3**  
Abstract multiple primaries\(^2\) when there are separate/non-contiguous tumors on both the:

- Upper lip C000 or C003 AND lower lip C001 or C004 OR
- Upper gum C030 AND lower gum C031 OR
- Nasal cavity C300 AND middle ear C301

*Note 1:* Use this rule only for multiple tumors.
*Note 2:* Timing is irrelevant.
*Note 3:* Histology is irrelevant.
*Note 4:* These primary sites differ at the fourth character of the site code CxxX. Use this rule ONLY for the primary sites listed.

Jump to Equivalent Terms and Definitions  
Jump to Histology Coding Rules
Rule M4  Abstract multiple primaries\* when separate/non-contiguous tumors are present in sites with ICD-O site codes that differ at the second C\text{x}x, and/or third characters C\text{x}\text{x}.

Note 1: Use this rule only for multiple tumors.
Note 2: Timing is irrelevant.
Note 3: Histology is irrelevant.

Rule M5  Abstract multiple primaries\* when there are separate/non-contiguous tumors on both the right side and the left side of a paired site.

Note 1: See Table 11 for a list of paired sites.
Note 2: Use this rule only for multiple tumors.
Note 3: Timing is irrelevant.
Note 4: Histology is irrelevant.

Rule M6  Abstract multiple primaries\* when the patient has a subsequent tumor after being clinically disease-free for greater than five years after the original diagnosis or last recurrence.

Note 1: Clinically disease-free means that there was no evidence of recurrence on follow-up.
- Scopes are NED
- Scans are NED
- Biomarkers are NED

Note 2: When there is a recurrence less than or equal to five years of diagnosis, the “clock” starts over. The time interval is calculated from the date of last recurrence. In other words, the patient must have been disease-free for greater than five years from the date of the last recurrence.

Note 3: When it is unknown/not documented whether the patient had a recurrence, use date of diagnosis to compute the time interval.

Note 4: The physician may state this is a recurrence, meaning the patient had a previous head and neck tumor and now has another head and neck tumor. Follow the rules; do not attempt to interpret the physician’s statement.
Rule M7  Abstract multiple primaries when separate/non-contiguous tumors are two or more different subtypes/variants in Column 3 of the appropriate site table (Tables 2-10) in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions. Timing is irrelevant. 
*Note:* The tumors may be subtypes/variants of the same or different NOS histologies.

- **Same NOS:** Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma 8920/3 and embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma 8910/3 are both subtypes of rhabdomyosarcoma 8900/3 but are distinctly different histologies. Abstract multiple primaries.
- **Different NOS:** Colloid-type adenocarcinoma 8144 is a subtype of adenocarcinoma NOS 8140; Sarcomatoid carcinoma 8074 is a subtype of squamous cell carcinoma 8070. They are distinctly different histologies. Abstract multiple primaries.

Rule M8  Abstract multiple primaries when separate/non-contiguous tumors are on different rows in the appropriate site table (Tables 2-10) in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions. Timing is irrelevant. 
*Note:* Each row in the table is a distinctly different histology.

Rule M9  Abstract a single primary (the invasive) when an in situ tumor is diagnosed after an invasive tumor. 
*Note 1:* The rules are hierarchical. Only use this rule when none of the previous rules apply.

*Note 2:* The tumors may be a NOS and a subtype/variant of that NOS. See Tables 2-10 in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions for listings of NOS and subtype/variants.

*Note 3:* The in situ is recorded as a recurrence for those registrars who collect recurrence data.

Rule M10  Abstract a single primary (the invasive) when an invasive tumor is diagnosed less than or equal to 60 days after an in situ tumor.

*Note 1:* The rules are hierarchical. Only use this rule when none of the previous rules apply.

*Note 2:* The tumors may be an NOS and a subtype/variant of that NOS.

*Note 3:* When the case has been abstracted, change behavior code on original abstract from /2 to /3. Do not change date of diagnosis.

*Note 4:* If the case has already been submitted to the central registry, report all changes.

*Note 5:* The physician may stage both tumors because staging and determining multiple primaries are done for different reasons. Staging determines which treatment would be most effective. Determining multiple primaries is done to stabilize the data for the study of epidemiology (long-term studies done on incidence, mortality, and causation of a disease with the goal of reducing or eliminating that disease).

*Note 6:* See the COC and SEER manuals for instructions on coding other data items such as Date of Diagnosis, Accession Year and Sequence Number.
Head and Neck Multiple Primary Rules
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Rule M11 Abstract multiple primaries\textsuperscript{ii} when an invasive tumor occurs more than 60 days after an in situ tumor.

Note 1: The rules are hierarchical. Only use this rule when none of the previous rules apply.

Note 2: Abstract both the invasive and in situ tumors.

Note 3: Abstract as multiple primaries even if physician states the invasive tumor is disease recurrence or progression.

Note 4: This rule is based on long-term epidemiologic studies of recurrence intervals. The specialty medical experts (SMEs) reviewed and approved these rules. Many of the SMEs were also authors, co-authors, or editors of the AJCC Staging Manual.

Rule M12 Abstract a single primary\textsuperscript{i} when separate/non-contiguous tumors are on the same row in the appropriate site table (Tables 2-10) in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions. Timing is irrelevant.

Note: The same row means the tumors are:

\begin{itemize}
  \item The same histology (same four-digit ICD-O code) OR
  \item One is the preferred term (column 1) and the other is a synonym for the preferred term (column 2) OR
  \item A NOS (column 1/column 2) and the other is a subtype/variant of that NOS (column 3)
\end{itemize}

Rule M13 Abstract a single primary\textsuperscript{i} when none of the previous rules apply.

Note: Use this rule as a last resort. Please confirm that you have not overlooked an applicable rule.

\textsuperscript{i} Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code. For registries collecting recurrence data:
When a subsequent tumor is “single primary,” record that subsequent tumor as a recurrence.

\textsuperscript{ii} Prepare two or more abstracts. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code to each case abstracted

Jump to Equivalent Terms and Definitions
Jump to Histology Coding Rules
Priority Order for Using Documentation to Identify Histology

The priority list is used for single primaries (including multiple tumors abstracted as a single primary).

This is a hierarchical list of source documentation.

Code the most specific histology from either resection or biopsy.

Note: The term “most specific” usually refers to a subtype/variant.

1. Biomarkers for those histologies which are identified by biomarkers
2. Tissue or pathology report from biopsy or resection (in priority order)
   A. Addendum(s) and/or comment(s)
   B. Final diagnosis
   C. CAP protocol
      Note 1: Addendums and comments on the pathology report are given a high priority because they often contain information about molecular testing, genetic testing, and/or special stains which give a more specific diagnosis.
      Note 2: The pathologist’s diagnosis from the pathology report is always reliable, so the final diagnosis is the second priority.
      Note 3: The CAP protocol is a checklist which:
      • Provides guidelines for collecting the essential data elements for complete reporting of malignant tumors and optimal patient care.
      • Allows physicians to check multiple histologies
      Note: The CAP protocol must be documented in one location. Most frequently, in the:
      • The pathology final diagnosis
      • Addendum to the path report
3. Tissue/pathology from a metastatic site
   Note 1: Code the behavior /3
   Note 2: The tissue from a metastatic site often shows variations from the primary tumor. When it is the only tissue available, it is more accurate than a scan.
4. Scan: The following list is in priority order.
   A. CT
   B. MRI
   C. PET
5. Code the histology **documented** by the physician when none of the above are available. Use the **documentation** in the following **priority order**:
   A. Tumor Board
   B. Documentation in the medical record that **refers to original pathology, cytology, or scan(s)**
   C. Physician’s **reference to** type of cancer (**histology**) in the medical record

   **Note 1:** Code the specific histology when documented.
   **Note 2:** Code the histology to 8000 (cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS) or as stated by the physician when nothing more specific is documented.

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**Coding Multiple Histologies**

1. **Code** histology when the:
   A. **Exact term is documented OR**
   B. **Histology is described as**
      - Subtype
      - Type
      - Variant

2. **Do not** code the histology when:
   A. The following **modifiers** are used as a descriptor:
      - Architecture
      - Differentiation
         **Note:** Only **code differentiation** when there is a **specific code** for the NOS with differentiation in **Tables 2-10** in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions, ICD-O and all **updates**.
      - Features (of)/with features of
         **Note:** Only **code features** when there is a **specific code** for the NOS with features in **Tables 2-10** in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions, ICD-O and all **updates**.
      - Foci; focus, focal
      - Major/majority of
         **Note:** Major/majority describes the greater amount of tumor.
      - Pattern(s)
• Predominantly
  
  **Note:** Predominantly describes the greater amount of tumor.

B. The following **ambiguous terminology** is used as a modifier:

- Apparently
- Appears
- Comparable with
- Compatible with
- Consistent with
- Favor(s)
- Malignant appearing
- Most likely
- Presumed
- Probable
- Suspect(ed)
- Suspicious (for)
- Typical (of)

**Note 1:** See [SEER Program Manual](#) and COC Manual. **Ambiguous** terminology is used to **determine reportability**.

**Note 2:** Histology described by ambiguous terminology is coded **ONLY** when a case is accessioned based on ambiguous terminology and no other histology information is available/documentated.

**Note 1:** **Salivary duct carcinoma** was **assigned** code **8500** because it resembles high-grade duct carcinoma as found in the breast. These tumors are very aggressive. **Code 8500 only** when the diagnosis is **exactly salivary duct carcinoma**.

**Note 2:** Assign code 8140 when the diagnosis is salivary gland adenocarcinoma.
Head and Neck Histology Coding Rules
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

**Single Tumor**

**Rule H1**  
Code the histology when only **one histology** is present.  
*Note 1:* Use Tables 2-10 to code histology. New codes, terms, and synonyms are included in Tables 2-10 and coding errors may occur if the table is not used.  
*Note 2:* When the histology is **not listed** in Tables 2-10, use the ICD-O and all updates.  
*Note 3:* Submit a question to Ask a SEER Registrar when the histology code is not found in Tables 2-10, ICD-O or all updates.

**Rule H2**  
Code the **invasive** histology when **in situ** and **invasive** histologies are present in the **same tumor**.  
*Example:* The tissue/pathologic diagnosis is invasive squamous cell carcinoma 8070/3 and keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma in situ 8071/2. Code the invasive histology, squamous cell carcinoma 8070/3 even though it is not the most specific histology.

**Rule H3**  
Code the subtype/variant when there is a **NOS** and a **single subtype/variant** of that NOS such as the following:  
- Adenocarcinoma/endolymphatic sac tumor 8140 and a subtype/variant of adenocarcinoma  
- Ameloblastic carcinoma primary type 9270 and a subtype variant of ameloblastic carcinoma primary type  
- Chondrosarcoma grade 2/3 9220 and a subtype/variant of chondrosarcoma grade 2/3  
- Neuroendocrine carcinoma 8246 and a subtype/variant of neuroendocrine carcinoma  
- Odontogenic carcinosarcoma 8980 and a subtype/variant of odontogenic carcinosarcoma  
- Sarcoma 8800/3 and a subtype/variant of sarcoma  
- Squamous cell carcinoma 8070 and subtype/variant of squamous carcinoma  
- Well differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma 8240 and a subtype/variant of well differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma  
*Note:* See Tables 2-10 in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions to find NOS and subtypes/variants.

This is the end of instructions for Single Tumor

Code the histology according to the rule that fits the case
Head and Neck Histology Coding Rules
C000-C148, C300-C339, C410, C411, C442, C479
(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia M9590 – M9992 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)

Multiple Tumors Abstracted as a Single Primary

Note: Before coding histology, the Multiple Primary Rules must be applied.

Rule H4  
Code the histology when only one histologic type is identified for all tumors.

Note 1: Use Tables 2-10 to code histology. New codes, terms, and synonyms are included in Tables 2-10 and coding errors may occur if the table is not used.

Note 2: When the histology is not listed in Tables 2-10, use the ICD-O and all updates.

Note 3: Submit a question to Ask a SEER Registrar when the histology code is not found in Tables 2-10, ICD-O or all updates.

Rule H5  
Code the invasive histology when one of the following criteria are met:

• All tumors have both invasive and in situ elements OR

• One or more tumors are invasive and one or more tumors are in situ

Note 1: Multiple Primary Rules must be applied to be certain all tumors are a single primary.

Note 2: When the NOS is invasive and the subtype/variant is situ, code the NOS (invasive).

Rule H6  
Code the subtype/variant when all tumors are a NOS and a single subtype/variant of that NOS such as the following:

• Adenocarcinoma/endolymphatic sac tumor 8140 and a subtype/variant of adenocarcinoma

• Ameloblastic carcinoma primary type 9270 and a subtype variant of ameloblastic carcinoma primary type

• Chondrosarcoma grade 2/3 9220 and a subtype/variant of chondrosarcoma grade 2/3

• Neuroendocrine carcinoma 8246 and a subtype/variant of neuroendocrine carcinoma

• Odontogenic carcinosarcoma 8980 and a subtype/variant of odontogenic carcinosarcoma

• Sarcoma 8800/3 and a subtype/variant of sarcoma

• Squamous cell carcinoma 8070 and subtype/variant of squamous carcinoma

• Well differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma 8240 and a subtype/variant of well differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma

Note: See Tables 2-10 in the Equivalent Terms and Definitions to find NOS and subtypes/variants.

This is the end of instructions for Multiple Tumors Abstracted as a Single Primary.

Code the histology according to the rule that fits the case