



Division of Public Health Services

Office of the Assistant Director

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JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
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Dear Colleagues:

The national standard setting organizations recently worked together to address the issue of coding tumor embolization procedures. There are different types of embolization, and coding the correct treatment modality for the different procedures has been a source of confusion. The new guidelines specify when an embolization procedure needs to be coded as Chemotherapy, Radiation Therapy, or Other Therapy. It also instructs registrars not to code pre-surgical embolization as cancer-directed treatment.

The accompanying memo from the major national standard setters clarifies these issues for registrars. This is a clarification, not a change. The explanation potentially impacts the following data items:

Item #	FORDS Item Name
690	Rx Hosp—Radiation
700	Chemotherapy At This Facility
730	Other Treatment At This Facility
1210	Date Radiation Started
1220	Rx Date-Chemo
1250	Date Other Treatment Started
1270	Date of First Course of Treatment
1360	Rx Summ—Radiation
1380	Radiation/Surgery Sequence
1390	Chemotherapy
1420	Other Treatment
1570	Regional Treatment Modality
1639	Systemic/Surgery Sequence
3230	Date Systemic Therapy Started

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Locketti".

Kara Locketti, Training Manager
Arizona Cancer Registry