



Division of Public Health Services

Arizona Cancer Registry

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TO: All Reporting Facility Cancer Registrars

FROM: Georgia Armenta Yee, BSW, CTR
Office Chief
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DATE: February 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Arizona Cancer Registry Coding Handbook includes the:
Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards, Revised for 2009
Arizona Cancer Registry Supplement

It is finally here, an electronic version of the Arizona Cancer Registry Coding Handbook! The Handbook includes the *Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards, (FORDS) Revised 2009* and the *Arizona Cancer Registry Supplement*. The FORDS was effective for cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2009. We previously notified you to continue using your previous version since there were no major changes to the revised 2009. Please start using this new version for cases diagnosed in 2009. If you decide to print the document we recommend you duplex print in order to maintain the correct pagination.

Included in this packet of information needed for the Revised 2009:

- Arizona Cancer Registry Coding Handbook 2009 (FORDS, 2009)
- Documentation of Labels & Notes 2009 inserted into the handbook (No need to write these in, they are already inserted into the PDF)
- Summary of Changes 2009
- Required Data Items 2009 (No changes)
- Index Guide 2009 (Quick reference guide for page numbers)
- Correction Issued for Benign Brain & CNS Cases
- Appendix D (Additional requirements for cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2004) – This document is not included in this packet as there are no changes. It will be posted at a later date.
- Appendix E NAACCR Recommended Abbreviations Listing
- Appendix F SEER Geocodes (from the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual, 2007)
- Appendix G Race and Nationality Descriptions from the 2000 Census and Bureau of Vital Statistics (from the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual, 2007)

New Data Items

There are no new data items.

Changes to Existing Data Items

FORDS: Revised for 2009 includes additional codes, revised code definitions and/or coding instructions for some data items. You may find comprehensive descriptions of the changes in the document, “Summary of Changes.” Specific changes are also described in Appendix C of *FORDS: Revised for 2009*, pages 289-303. Review a complete listing in the Table of Contents on clarifications and additions to the *ACR Supplement*.

Even though the Commission on Cancer has changed AJCC staging requirements for its approved programs (allowing registrars to code clinical staging information if it has not been recorded by the physician, and not expressly requiring that class 0 cases be staged), the ACR has its own specific requirements regarding staging. These requirements are detailed in the labels and notes.

Also, please disregard the new instructions for coding Kaposi Sarcoma cases for the following data items:

Date of Multiple Tumors (NAACCR Item # 445)
Multiple Tumors Reported as One Primary (NAACCR Item # 444)
Multiplicity Counter (NAACCR Item # 446)

FORDS 2009 instructs registrars to code 8’s (Not applicable) for these three items. However, this is inconsistent with the *Multiple Primary and Histology Rules* coding manual. SEER has indicated that registrars use the *Multiple Primary and Histology Rules* manual for these fields.

For SEER Summary Stage 2000 there is a new code of “8” for not applicable (non-malignant tumor). This code is effective for cases diagnosed on or after 01/01/2009. See “Correction Issued for Benign Brain” document.

Additional supplement pages were added by ACR. This is information taken from the *SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual, 2007*.

Race 1 thru 5 Clarifications
Priority Order of Reports for Coding Primary Site
Tumor Grade Notes
Treatment – additional clarifications and definitions

We appreciate your patience, and, as always, you are more than welcome to contact any ACR staff member if you have questions about the updates.