

Person with cancer—morphology of cancer, code (ICDO-3) NNNN/N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Morphology of cancer
METEOR identifier:	270179
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 06/03/2009
Definition:	The histological classification of the cancer tissue (histopathological type) and a description of the course of development that a tumour is likely to take: benign or malignant (behaviour), as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person with cancer—morphology of cancer
Value Domain:	Morphology of cancer code (ICDO-3) NNNN/N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	International Classification of Diseases for Oncology 3rd edition
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	NNNN/N
Maximum character length:	5

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>ICDO morphology describes histology and behaviour as separate variables, recognising that there are a large number of possible combinations.</p> <p>In ICDO, morphology is a 4-digit number ranging from 8000 to 9989, and behaviour is a single digit which can be 0, 1, 2, 3, 6 or 9.</p> <p>Record morphology codes in accordance with ICDO coding standards. Use the 5th-digit to record behaviour. The 5th-digit behaviour code numbers used in ICDO are listed below:</p> <p>0 Benign</p> <p>1 Uncertain whether benign or malignant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• borderline malignancy• low malignant potential <p>2 Carcinoma in situ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• intraepithelial• non-infiltrating• non-invasive <p>3 Malignant, primary site</p> <p>6 Malignant, metastatic site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• malignant, secondary site <p>9 Malignant, uncertain whether primary or metastatic site</p>
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Source and reference attributes

Origin: International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Third Edition (ICDO-3)

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods: Cancer registry use:

In cancer registries morphology information should be obtained from a pathology report or pathology system, and recorded with/on the patient's medical record and/or the hospital's patient administration system. Additional information may also be sought from the patient's attending clinician or medical practitioner.

Hospital morbidity use:

In hospitals, the morphology code is modified for use with ICD-10-AM. The morphology code consists of histologic type (4 digits) and behaviour code (1 digit) ranging from 8000/0 to 9989/9. The '/' between the fourth and fifth digits is not supplied.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: World Health Organization

New South Wales Health Department

State and Territory Cancer Registries

Reference documents: New South Wales Inpatient Statistics Collection Manual, 2000/2001


Esteban D, Whelan S, Laudico A and Parkin DM editors. International Agency for Research on Cancer World Health Organization and International Association of Cancer Registries: Manual for cancer registry personnel. IARC Technical Report No 10. Lyon: IARC, 1995

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [Person with cancer—morphology of cancer, code \(ICDO-3\) NNNN/N](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

Is re-engineered from  [Morphology of cancer, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (16.3 KB)

No registration status

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005
DSS specific information:

This information is collected for the purpose of:

- classifying tumours into clinically relevant groupings on the basis of both their morphology (cell type) and their degree of invasion or malignancy as indicated by the behaviour code component (the last digit of the morphology code);
- monitoring the number of new cases of cancer for planning treatment services.

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 06/03/2009
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