

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

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

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

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Morphology of cancer
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	270179
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 06/03/2009
<b>Definition:</b>	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.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person with cancer—morphology of cancer</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Morphology of cancer code (ICDO-3) NNNN/N</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">International Classification of Diseases for Oncology 3rd edition</a>
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	NNNN/N
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	5

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<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"><li>• borderline malignancy</li><li>• low malignant potential</li></ul> <p>2 Carcinoma in situ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• intraepithelial</li><li>• non-infiltrating</li><li>• non-invasive</li></ul> <p>3 Malignant, primary site</p> <p>6 Malignant, metastatic site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• malignant, secondary site</li></ul> <p>9 Malignant, uncertain whether primary or metastatic site</p>
-----------------------	--

## 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

***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.