

# Degree of spread of cancer code N

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Value Domain
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	270757
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005
<b>Definition:</b>	A code set representing the progression/extent of cancer at a particular point in time.

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	1

	Value	Meaning
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Localised to the tissue of origin
	2	Invasion of adjacent tissue or organs
	3	Regional lymph nodes
	4	Distant metastases
	5	Not Applicable
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	9	Unknown

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>The valid values for the variable are listed below.</p> <p><b>CODE 1</b> Localised to the tissue of origin</p> <p>Includes a primary cancer where the spread is contained within the organ of origin. Note: this includes in situ breast (D05.0-D05.9) and in situ melanoma (D03.0-D03.9)</p> <p>Example 1: For colon cancer, the cancer has not progressed into the adventitia (peritoneal layer) surrounding the colon.</p> <p>Example 2: For breast cancer, the cancer has not progressed into the underlying muscle layer (pectoral) or externally to the skin.</p> <p>Example 3: For melanoma of the skin, the cancer has not invaded the subcutaneous fat layer (that is, it is contained within the dermis and epidermis).</p> <p>Example 4: For lung cancer, the cancer has not invaded the pleura.</p> <p><b>CODE 2</b> Invasion of adjacent tissue or organs</p> <p>A primary cancer has spread to adjacent organs or tissue not forming part of the organ of origin. This category includes sub-cutaneous fat or muscle and organs adjacent to the primary cancer site.</p> <p>Example 1: For colon cancer, the cancer has progressed into the adventitia (peritoneal layer) surrounding the colon.</p> <p>Example 2: For breast cancer, the degree of spread has progressed into the underlying muscle layer (pectoral) or externally into the skin.</p>
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Example 3: For melanoma of the skin, the cancer has invaded into subcutaneous fat or muscle.

Example 4: For lung cancer, the cancer has invaded the pleura or tissues of the mediastinum.

#### CODE 3 Regional lymph nodes

The primary cancer has metastasised to the nearby draining lymph nodes. The list below shows the regional lymph nodes by site of primary cancer (International Union Against Cancer's definition).

Head and neck - Cervical nodes

Larynx - Cervical nodes

Thyroid - Cervical and upper mediastinal nodes

Stomach - Perigastric nodes along the lesser and greater curvatures

Colon and Rectum - Pericolic, perirectal, and those located along the ileocolic, right colic, middle colic, left colic, inferior mesenteric and superior rectal

Anal - Perirectal, internal iliac, and inguinal lymph nodes

Liver - Hilar nodes, e.g. the hepatoduodenal ligament

Pancreas - Peripancreatic nodes

Lung - Intrathoracic, scalene and supraclavicular

Breast - Axillary, interpectoral, internal mammary

Cervix - Paracervical, parametrial, hypogastric, common, internal and external iliac, presacral and sacral

Ovary - Hypogastric (obturator), common iliac, external iliac, lateral, sacral, para-aortic and inguinal

Prostate and bladder - Pelvic nodes below the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries

Testes - Abdominal, para-aortic and paracaval nodes, the intrapelvic and inguinal nodes

Kidney - Hilar, abdominal, para-aortic or paracaval.

#### CODE 4 Distant metastases

The primary cancer has spread to sites distant to the primary site, for example liver and lung and bone, or any lymph nodes not stated as regional to the site (see '3 - Regional lymph nodes' above).

#### CODE 5 Not applicable

This category applies for lymphatic and haematopoietic cancers, e.g. myelomas, leukaemias and lymphomas (C81.0 - C96.9) only.

#### CODE 9 Unknown

No information is available on the degree of spread at this episode or the available information is insufficient to allow classification into one of the preceding categories.

## Relational attributes

Data elements  
implementing this value  
domain:

[Person with cancer—degree of spread of a cancer, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 01/03/2005