

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:	370023
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 07/12/2011
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 attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person with cancer—morphology of cancer
METEOR identifier:	269647
Registration status:	Health , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	The morphology of a cancer refers to 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). The designation is based on a microscopic diagnosis of morphology by the pathologist (Esteban, Whelan, Laudico & Parkin 1995).
Object class:	Person with cancer
Property:	Morphology of cancer

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Morphology of cancer code (ICDO-3) NNNN/N
METEOR identifier:	270756
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 07/12/2011
Definition:	The ICDO (3rd edition) code set representing the histology and behaviour of cancer tissue.

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:

ICDO morphology describes histology and behaviour as separate variables, recognising that there are a large number of possible combinations.

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.

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:

0 Benign

1 Uncertain whether benign or malignant

- borderline malignancy
- low malignant potential

2 Carcinoma in situ

- intraepithelial
- non-infiltrating
- non-invasive

3 Malignant, primary site

6 Malignant, metastatic site

- malignant, secondary site

9 Malignant, uncertain whether primary or metastatic site

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:

Collection of this data item should only be from notification and pathology reports relating to initial diagnosis and not for recurrent or metastatic disease.

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.

If the morphology differs on multiple pathology reports for the same tumour, use the value from the most representative tumour specimen examined. For example, if tumour is described as ductal on core biopsy but undifferentiated carcinoma on the excision specimen the morphology would be coded as undifferentiated carcinoma (a lower code) which has a less favourable diagnosis.

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.

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: Supersedes [Person with cancer—morphology of cancer, code \(ICDO-3\) NNNN/N Health](#), Superseded 06/03/2009

Has been superseded by [Person with cancer—morphology of cancer, code \(ICD-O-3.1\) NNNN/N Health](#), Qualified 03/08/2023

Has been superseded by [Person with cancer—morphology of cancer, code \(ICD-O-3\) NNNN/N Health](#), Standard 07/12/2011

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Breast cancer \(Cancer registries\) DSS Health](#), Superseded 01/09/2012

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS Health](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

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.

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

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