

Person with cancer—number of regional lymph nodes examined, total N[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.

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at meteor@aihw.gov.au.

Person with cancer—number of regional lymph nodes examined, total N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Number of regional lymph nodes examined
METEOR identifier:	415971
Registration status:	Health , Standard 07/12/2011
Definition:	The total number of regional lymph nodes examined by a pathologist in a person with cancer.
Data Element Concept:	Person with cancer—number of regional lymph nodes examined
Value Domain:	Total number N[N]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N[N]	
Maximum character length:	2	
	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/inadequately described

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	A list of which lymph nodes are defined as regional lymph nodes for each cancer site may be found in the current edition of the TNM Classification of Tumours, UICC (International Union Against Cancer) or the AJCC (American Joint Committee on Cancer) Cancer Staging Manual. The number includes all nodes examined regardless of whether they were removed and examined at a single or multiple procedures. For example, for breast cancer, record the sum of regional lymph nodes examined from node sampling, sentinel node biopsy and axillary clearance. The number of regional lymph nodes is cumulative from all procedures that removed lymph nodes through the completion of surgeries for the initial treatment of the cancer. The initial course of treatment includes all treatments administered to the patient from diagnosis and before disease progression or recurrence. Breast cancer: Regional lymph nodes include all ipsilateral axillary nodes (levels 1, 2 and 3), ipsilateral internal mammary nodes, supraclavicular nodes and intramammary lymph nodes. All other nodes (including contralateral axillary, contralateral internal mammary nodes and cervical nodes) are considered to be distant metastases and should not be recorded in this data item. Definitions are from the UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th Edition.
----------------	---

Collection methods: For cancer registries, collection of this data item should only be from notification and pathology reports relating to initial diagnosis and not for recurrent or metastatic disease.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: Australian Cancer Network

Commission on Cancer American College of Surgeons

Reference documents: American College of Surgeons 1998. Standards of the Commission on Cancer: Registry Operations and Data Standards (ROADS), Volume II, Commission on Cancer

American Joint Committee on Cancer 2010. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7th edition. New York: Springer

Australian Cancer Network & National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Network 2001. The pathology reporting of breast cancer: A guide for pathologists, surgeons, radiologists and oncologists, 3rd edition. Sydney: Australian Cancer Network & National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Network

Johnson CH & Adamo M (Editors) 2007. SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2007, MD 2008 revision. Bethesda: National Cancer Institute, NIH Publication number 07-5581

Sobin LH, Gospodarowicz MK, Wittekind C (Editors) 2009. International Union Against Cancer (UICC): TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th edition. Wiley-Blackwell

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person with cancer—number of regional lymph nodes examined, total code N\[N\] Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

See also [Person with cancer—number of positive regional lymph nodes, total N\[N\] Health](#), Standard 07/12/2011

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

DSS specific information:

Breast cancer:

Regional lymph nodes include all ipsilateral axillary, ipsilateral infraclavicular/subclavicular, ipsilateral internal mammary and ipsilateral supraclavicular nodes. All other nodes (including contralateral internal mammary nodes) are considered to be distant metastases and should not be recorded in this data item. Definitions from UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours 6th Edition.

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/05/2014

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the regional lymph nodes being excised and examined by a pathologist.

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 14/05/2015

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the regional lymph nodes being excised and examined by a pathologist.

[Cancer \(clinical\) NBPDS](#)

[Health](#), Standard 14/05/2015

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the regional lymph nodes being excised and examined by a pathologist.