

Cancer treatment—surgical margin status, positive/negative/unknown code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Surgical margin status
METEOR identifier:	587697
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 14/05/2015
Definition:	The status of the closest surgical margin from the invasive or in situ carcinoma after surgical treatment for cancer, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Cancer treatment—surgical margin status

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code						
Data type:	Boolean						
Format:	N						
Maximum character length:	1						
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Positive</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Negative</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Positive	2	Negative
Value	Meaning						
1	Positive						
2	Negative						
Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>8</td><td>Unknown</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	8	Unknown		
Value	Meaning						
8	Unknown						

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Surgical margins represent sites that have either been cut or bluntly dissected by the surgeon to resect the specimen.

Record whether the surgical margin to the invasive or in situ carcinoma was positive, negative or unknown as described in the pathology report. Where two or more margins are reported, only the closest should be recorded (ie if any margin is reported positive, positive should be recorded).

Record only for the most definitive surgical procedure performed. For instance, if a surgical procedure to remove a portion of tumour at the primary site is followed by additional surgery to remove the remainder of the tumour at that site, code the distance of the margin for the final surgical procedure.

Record for the primary tumour site only, not for metastatic sites.

Negative (also outlined as clear) should be recorded when no cancer cells are seen at the outer edge of the tissue that was removed. Positive should be recorded when cancer cells come right out to the edge of the removed tissue. Unknown should be recorded when the pathology report does not define the surgical margin.

Collection methods: This information should be sought from the patient's pathology report under microscopic findings.

Comments: The distance of the closest margin is useful for surgical audit and for assessing the completeness of surgical resection. Margin involvement may influence treatment decisions and is a prognostic indicator.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Cancer Australia

Reference documents: Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia 2010. Lung cancer structured reporting protocol. 1st Edition (Version 1.0). Surry Hills, NSW: Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

American College of Surgeons 2002. Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS), 2011 revision. Commission on Cancer, page 211

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Cancer treatment—lung cancer surgical margin qualifier, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 08/05/2014

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Prostate cancer \(clinical\) NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 14/05/2015