Person with cancer—primary tumour status, T stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th ed) code X[XXX]

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Cancer staging—T stage code
METEOR identifier:	719712
Registration status:	Health, Recorded 14/06/2023
Definition:	The size and extent of the primary tumour in a person with cancer, as represented by a code.
Value Domain:	T stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th ed) code X[XXX]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours 8th edition
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	X[XXX]
Maximum character length:	4

	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	9997	Not applicable
	9998	Unknown
	9999	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Valid T codes from the current edition of the UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours.
	Record the stage in Arabic numerals and the appropriate upper or lower case alphabetic character omitting the prefix "T". For example, record stage T2a for lung cancer as "2a".
	Record if the T stage value has a prefix of "c" or "p"; for example, record retinoblastoma T stage pT2b as "p2b".
	Refer to the TNM Supplement: A Commentary on Uniform Use, 5th Edition for coding rules.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Reference documents:	Wittekind C et al (Editors) 2019. Union for International Cancer Control (UICC): TNM supplement: A commentary on uniform use, 5th edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Record the size and extent of the primary tumour at the time of diagnosis of the cancer.

TNM staging applies to solid tumours excluding brain tumours.

Choose the lower (less advanced) T category when there is any uncertainty.

The T stage value is derived from the size of the tumour and its relationship (extension) to other structures. The size is reflected in the value of data element *Person with cancer—solid tumour size (at diagnosis), total millimetres NNN*; the usage attributes provide additional detail.

The extent of the primary cancer at diagnosis is usually recorded. An exception is malignant melanoma of the skin; by convention T stage is recorded after tumour excision and is based on tumour thickness with T subcategories based on ulceration and the number of mitoses seen. Ovarian cancer is also surgically/pathologically staged.

The current edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual provides an equivalent and alternative source of T stage codes.

Staging classification systems other than the TNM classification system are recorded separately.

Collection methods: This information should be obtained from the patient's medical record.

Comments: Cancer stage is an important determinant of treatment and prognosis, and is used to evaluate new treatments and analyse outcomes. Survival analysis is adjusted by stage at diagnosis and distribution of cancer cases by type and stage.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Cancer Australia

Reference documents: Brierley J, Gospodarowicz M, Wittekind C (Editors) 2016. Union for International Cancer Control (UICC): TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

American Joint Committee on Cancer 2016. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8th edition. New York: Springer

American College of Surgeons 2002. Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS), 2016 revision. Commission on Cancer

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Person with cancer—primary tumour status, T stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed) code X[XXX]](#)
[Health](#), Standard 07/12/2011

See also [Cancer staging—staging basis of cancer, code A](#)
[Health](#), Standard 07/12/2011

See also [Person with cancer—distant metastasis status, M stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th ed) code X[XX]](#)
[Health](#), Recorded 14/06/2023

See also [Person with cancer—extent of primary cancer, TNM stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th ed) code X[XX]](#)
[Health](#), Standard 16/01/2020

See also [Person with cancer—regional lymph node metastasis status, N stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th ed) code X[XX]](#)
[Health](#), Recorded 14/06/2023

See also [Person with cancer—solid tumour size (at diagnosis), total millimetres NNN](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011