Appendix N

Grade Coding Instructions and Tables

Effective with Cases Diagnosed 1/1/2018 and Forward

https://apps.naaccr.org/ssdi/list/

Use the link above to access the most current version of the NAACCR SSDI/Grade computer application and SSDI/Grade webpage. On this website you can download the complete Grade Coding Instructions and Tables (Grade Manual), the SSDI Manual, and the two Appendices that are to be used with the SSDI Manual. While the codes and code definitions will be available in drop-down format within your registry software, these manuals serve as the primary resource for coding instructions and rationale for use of the SSDI items and the Grade Coding Instructions. The Grade Manual must be used to identify the **FOUR** grade code fields, coding instructions, and code lists as well as any of the required SSDIs by Schema.

The Grade Coding Instructions and Tables (Grade Manual) is the primary resource for documentation and coding instructions for Grade for cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2018. **The current version is v2.1.** Before using the Grade Manual as a coding reference, it is important to review the introductory materials and general instructions of the manual carefully. These reflect several important changes in the collection of Grade data items, including use of AJCC-recommended grade tables where applicable and the introduction of Clinical, Pathological and Post-Therapy Grade data items (yc and yp).

In order to understand how the Grade Tables are organized in the Grade Manual, you must be familiar with the concept of Schema ID's which is described in the SSDI Manual. A particular Grade Table defines the set of applicable codes for a set of schemas and AJCC Chapters. For example, "Grade ID 01 – Clinical Grade Instructions" defines a single set of codes that apply to clinical grade for **31 Schemas**/AJCC Chapters. Similar to the SSDI's, registry software will populate the grade field pick lists for each case with the appropriate grade codes based on the Schema ID, such that once the software is available, the registrar will not have to use the manual to determine which grade codes apply for a particular case.

The Grade Manual provides **Grade Table Indexes** to assist the registrar in identifying the correct code Tables. These indexes are located at the beginning of the Grade Manual, immediately after the Table of Contents. The first Index provides information sorted **in Schema ID # order**, which approximates the order of AJCC Chapters, and contains Schema number and name, AJCC Chapter number and name and the Summary Stage Chapter name along with a hyperlink to the appropriate Grade Table. A hyperlink is also provided to return to the Grade Table (Schema ID order) at the end of the coding instructions for each schema. A second index with similar information and functionality, sorted in alphabetical order by schema name, is also provided.

In addition to understanding the concept and structure of the Grade Tables, it is critically important to review all of the general information included in the Manual. Particular attention should be paid to understanding coding instructions for grade tables where both an AJCC-preferred grade system and the generic grade system are allowable codes, coding guidelines for Clinical, Pathological and Post-Therapy grade data items and coding instructions for generic grade categories. Thorough understanding of this material will be necessary in order to code the new Grade Data Items accurately.