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# How to Use the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

FCDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ST PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
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Steven Peace, CTR



## Outline

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- ▶ Using AJCC TNM Staging Forms
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# History, Purpose and Background

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- ▶ The AJCC Cancer Staging Manual and Handbook, prepared by the American Joint Committee on Cancer, are used by physicians, cancer registries, and other allied health care professionals throughout the world to facilitate the uniform description and reporting of cancer staging for most neoplastic diseases.
- ▶ Proper classification and staging is essential for physicians to assign proper treatment, evaluate results of management and clinical trials, and to serve as the standard for local, regional and international reporting on cancer incidence and outcomes.
- ▶ As knowledge of cancer biology expands, cancer staging must incorporate these advances. This is why the non-anatomic prognostic factors were added in 2010.
- ▶ The Seventh Edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual brings together all the currently available information on staging of cancer at various anatomic sites and incorporates newly acquired knowledge on the etiology and pathology of cancer...supplemented by selected molecular markers

# History, Purpose and Background

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Edition	Publication Year	Effective Dates
1	1977	1978-1983
2	1983	1984-1988
3	1988	1989-1992
4	1992	1993-1997
5	1997	1998-2002
6	2002	2003-2009
7	2009	2010-

# Purchase and Ordering Information

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Medicine Surgery

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**AJCC Cancer Staging Manual**

Editors: Edge, S., Byrd, D.R., Compton, C.C., Fritz, A.G., Greene, F.L., Trotti, A. (Eds.)

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The AJCC Cancer Staging Manual and Handbook (with staging forms included) are the gold standard to help the cancer patient management team determine the correct stage for patients, allowing for the most appropriate care plan.

About this book Reviews

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9780387884400>

- AJCC Cancer Staging Manual – 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010
- COST: \$64.95
- ISBN: 978-0-387-88440-0
- Required - Florida Mandate
  - FCDS will not purchase
  - Facility may purchase
  - Individual may purchase
- Also Required to Purchase 8<sup>th</sup> Edition in 2016-2017
- <https://cancerstaging.org>
- <http://springer.com>
- 1-800-SPRINGER

# AJCC Staging Manual Organization

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- ▶ Part I – Chapter 1 – Purposes and Principles of Cancer Staging
- ▶ Part I – Chapter 2 – Cancer Survival Analysis
- ▶ Parts II -- XII are organized by Body System (digestive/GYN/GU/etc.)
- ▶ Each Body System (Part) includes 1 or more Site Chapters
- ▶ 57 Site Chapters Organized by Primary Site and/or Histologic Type
  - ▶ Chapters are grouped by Body System (digestive, urinary, etc.)
  - ▶ Chapters are organized by Disease Site (Primary Site)
  - ▶ Plus a few Histology-Based Chapters (melanoma, Merkel cell, etc.)
- ▶ Alphabetical Index
- ▶ CD-ROM with Printable Staging Forms

# Chapter Outline and Contents

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<b>Staging at a Glance</b>	Summary of anatomic stage/prognostic grouping
<b>Changes in Staging</b>	Table summarizing changes in staging from the 6 <sup>th</sup> edition
<b>Introduction</b>	Overview of factors affecting staging and outcome
<b>Anatomic Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Primary Tumor</li> <li>o Regional lymph nodes</li> <li>o Metastatic sites</li> </ul>
<b>Rules for Classification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Clinical</li> <li>o Pathologic</li> </ul>
<b>Prognostic Features</b>	Identification and discussion of non-anatomic prognostic factors
<b>Definitions of TNM</b>	T: Primary tumor N: Regional lymph nodes M: Distant metastasis
<b>Anatomic Stage Prognostic Groups</b>	
<b>Prognostic Factors (SSFs)</b>	a. Required for staging b. Clinically significant
<b>Grade</b>	
<b>Histopathologic Type</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	
<b>Staging Form</b>	

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. – Chapter 1, Table 1.10, p.14

# Chapter Outline and Contents

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## ANATOMY

**Primary Site.** The retina is composed of neurons and glial cells. The precursors of the neuronal elements give rise to retinoblastoma, whereas the glial cells give rise to astrocytomas, which are benign and extremely rare in the retina. The retina is limited internally by a membrane that separates it from the vitreous cavity. Externally, it is limited by the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and Bruch's membrane, which separate it from the choroid and act as natural barriers to extension of retinal tumors into the choroid. The continuation of the retina with the optic nerve allows direct extension of retinoblastomas into the optic nerve and then to the subarachnoid space. Because the retina has no lymphatics, spread of retinal tumors is either by direct extension into adjacent structures or by distant metastasis through hematogenous routes.

**Regional Lymph Nodes.** Because there are no intraocular lymphatics, this category of staging applies only to anterior

extrascleral extension. The regional lymph nodes are preauricular (parotid), submandibular, and cervical.

**Local Extension.** Local extension anteriorly can result in soft tissue involvement of the face or a mass protruding from between the lids. Posterior extension results in retinoblastoma extending into the orbit, paranasal sinuses, and/or brain.

**Metastatic Sites.** Retinoblastoma can metastasize through hematogenous routes to various sites, most notably the bone marrow, skull, long bones, and brain.

## RULES FOR CLASSIFICATION

**Choroidal Invasion.** The presence and the extent (focal vs. massive) of choroidal invasion by tumor should be stated. Differentiation should be made between true choroidal invasion and artifactual invasion due to seeding of fresh tumor

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# Chapter Outline and Contents

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**Clinical Staging.** All suspected cases of retinoblastoma should have a neural imaging scan. If it is possible to obtain only one imaging study, computerized tomography (CT) is recommended because detection of calcium in the eye on CT confirms the clinical suspicion of retinoblastoma. The request should include cuts through the pineal region of the brain. Magnetic resonance imaging is particularly useful if extension into either the extraocular space or the optic nerve is suspected or if there is a concern about the possible presence of a primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET) in the pineal region (trilateral retinoblastoma).

A staging examination under anesthesia should include ocular ultrasound and retinal drawings of each eye, with each identifiable tumor measured and numbered. Digital images of the retina may be very helpful. In bilateral cases, each eye must be classified separately. Tumor size or the distance from the tumor to the disc or fovea is recorded in millimeters. These millimeter distances are measured by ultrasound, estimated by comparison with a normalized optic disc (1.5 mm), or deduced from the fact that the field of a 28-diopter condensing lens has a retinal diameter of 13 mm.

**Pathologic Staging.** If one eye is enucleated, pathologic staging of that eye provides information supplemental to the clinical staging. First, the pathology should provide histologic verification of the disease. All clinical and pathologic data from the resected specimen are to be used.

**Processing the Enucleated Retinoblastoma Globe.** In certain situations fresh tumor material may be needed from the enucleated globe for research purposes or genetic testing. In these cases the globe should be moved to a sterile area in the Operating Room away from the operative field. After collecting the specimen, the surgeon should change his/her gloves before reentering the operative field.

**Processing With Tumor Sampling.** To collect the tumor specimen, the optic nerve should be removed before opening the globe to prevent the optic nerve from accidentally becoming contaminated with artifactual clumps of tumor cells (so-called floaters). The surgeon should first ink the surgical margin of

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. – Chapter 52, Retinoblastoma, p.562

# Chapter Outline and Contents

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filled, and the greatest extent of choroid involved by choroidal tumor invasion.

## DEFINITIONS OF TUM

### Clinical Classification (cTMM)

#### Primary Tumor (T)

TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
T1	Tumors no more than 2/3 the volume of the eye with no vitreous or subretinal seeding
T1a	No tumor in either eye is greater than 3 mm in largest dimension or located closer than 1.5 mm to the optic nerve or fovea
T1b	At least one tumor is greater than 3 mm in largest dimension or located closer than 1.5 mm to the optic nerve or fovea. No retinal detachment or subretinal fluid beyond 5 mm from the base of the tumor
T1c	At least one tumor is greater than 3 mm in largest dimension or located closer than 1.5 mm to the optic nerve or fovea, with retinal detachment or subretinal fluid beyond 5 mm from the base of the tumor
T2	Tumors no more than 2/3 the volume of the eye with vitreous or subretinal seeding. Can have retinal detachment
T2a	Focal vitreous and/or subretinal seeding of fine aggregates of tumor cells is present, but no large clumps or "snowballs" of tumor cells
T2b	Massive vitreous and/or subretinal seeding is present, defined as diffuse clumps or "snowballs" of tumor cells
T3	Severe intraocular disease
T3a	Tumor fills more than 2/3 of the eye
T3b	One or more complications present, which may include tumor-associated neovascular or angle closure glaucoma, tumor extension into the anterior segment, hyphema, vitreous hemorrhage, or orbital cellulitis
T4	Extracocular disease detected by imaging studies
T4a	Invasion of optic nerve
T4b	Invasion into the orbit
T4c	Intraorbital extension not past chiasm
T4d	Intraorbital extension past chiasm

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0	No regional lymph node involvement
N1	Regional lymph node involvement (preauricular, cervical, submandibular)
N2	Distant lymph node involvement

### Metastasis (M)

M0	No metastasis
M1	Systemic metastasis
M1a	Single lesion to sites other than CNS
M1b	Multiple lesions to sites other than CNS
M1c	Prechiasmatic CNS lesion(s)
M1d	Postchiasmatic CNS lesion(s)
M1e	Leptomeningeal and/or CSF involvement

### Pathologic Classification (pTMM)

#### Primary Tumor (pT)

pTX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
pT0	No evidence of primary tumor
pT1	Tumor confined to eye with no optic nerve or choroidal invasion
pT2	Tumor with minimal optic nerve and/or choroidal invasion
pT2a	Tumor superficially invades optic nerve head but does not extend past lamina cribrosa or tumor exhibits focal choroidal invasion
pT2b	Tumor superficially invades optic nerve head but does not extend past lamina cribrosa and exhibits focal choroidal invasion
pT3	Tumor with significant optic nerve and/or choroidal invasion
pT3a	Tumor invades optic nerve past lamina cribrosa but not to surgical resection line and exhibits massive choroidal invasion
pT3b	Tumor invades optic nerve past lamina cribrosa but not to surgical resection line and exhibits massive choroidal invasion
pT4	Tumor invades optic nerve to resection line or exhibits extra-ocular extension elsewhere
pT4a	Tumor invades optic nerve to resection line but no extra-ocular extension identified
pT4b	Tumor invades optic nerve to resection line and extra-ocular extension identified

### Regional Lymph Nodes (pN)

pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node involvement
pN1	Regional lymph node involvement (preauricular, cervical)
pN2	Distant lymph node involvement

### Metastasis (pM)

pM0	No metastasis
pM1	Metastasis to sites other than CNS
pM1a	Single lesion
pM1b	Multiple lesions
pM1c	CNS metastasis
pM1d	Discrete mass(es) without leptomeningeal and/or CSF involvement
pM1e	Leptomeningeal and/or CSF involvement

## ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS

No stage grouping applies

## PROGNOSTIC FACTORS (SITE-SPECIFIC FACTORS) (Recommended for Collection)

Required for staging	None
Clinically significant	Extension evaluated at enucleation RB gene mutation Positive family history of retinoblastoma Primary globe-sparing treatment failure Greatest linear extent of choroid involved by choroidal tumor invasion

## HISTOLOGIC GRADE (G)

Grade is reported in registry systems by the grade value. A two-grade, three-grade, or four-grade system may be used. If a grading system is not specified, generally the following system is used:

GX	Grade cannot be assessed
G1	Well differentiated
G2	Moderately differentiated

G3	Poorly differentiated
G4	Undifferentiated

## HISTOPATHOLOGIC TYPE

This classification applies only to retinoblastoma.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Chantada G, Doz F, Antoneli CB, Grundy R, Clare Stannard FF, Dunkel IJ, et al. A proposal for an international retinoblastoma staging system. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2006;47:801–5.
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AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. – Chapter 52, Retinoblastoma, p.563-564

# Identifying Neoplasms by Chapter

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- ▶ Verify Primary Site against list of ICD-O-3 Topography Codes
  - ▶ First Page of Each Chapter includes a list of ICD-O-3 Site Codes
  
- ▶ Verify Histopathologic Type against list of ICD-O-3 Histology Codes
  - ▶ First Page of Many Chapters includes a list of ICD-O-3 Histology Codes
  - ▶ When there is not a list of Histology Codes – go to end of chapter and review the section entitled “Histopathologic Type” to confirm histology
  
- ▶ If cannot verify site and/or histology then go to the Alphabetical Index at the back of the manual to find site/histology combination
  
- ▶ If there is not a corresponding AJCC Staging Chapter – then “N/A”

# Identifying Neoplasms by Chapter

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**At-A-Glance**

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

**Clinical Classification**

- The definitions of T1–T4 were modified
- The definitions for M1 were modified

**Pathologic Classification**

- Minor modifications were made to the definitions for pT2–pT4
- Definition of choroidal invasion, focal versus massive
- The definitions for pM1 were modified

**Other**

- A description of proper processing of the enucleated retinoblastoma globe for pathological examination was added

**ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS**

No stage grouping applies

**ICD-O-3 TOPOGRAPHY CODES**

C69.2 Retina

**ICD-O-3 HISTOLOGY CODE RANGES**

9510–9514

**ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS**

G3 Poorly differentiated  
G4 Undifferentiated

**PROGNOSTIC FACTORS (SITE-SPECIFIC FACTORS)**  
*(Recommended for Collection)*

Required for staging: None

Clinically significant: Extension evaluated at enucleation  
RB gene mutation  
Positive family history of retinoblastoma  
Primary globe-sparing treatment failure  
Greatest linear extent of choroid involved by choroidal tumor invasion

**HISTOLOGIC GRADE (G)**

Grade is reported in registry systems by the grade value. A two-grade, three-grade, or four-grade system may be used. If a grading system is not specified, generally the following system is used:

GX Grade cannot be assessed  
G1 Well differentiated  
G2 Moderately differentiated

**HISTOPATHOLOGIC TYPE**

This classification applies only to retinoblastoma.

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Warrier RP, Regueira O. Wilms' tumor. *Pediatr Nephrol*. 1992;6:358–64.

## Neoplasms Not in the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ **Not all types of cancer are AJCC-stage able.**
- ▶ **Use the Primary Site Codes** listed at the beginning of each chapter in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. **Use the List of Histopathologic Types** in each chapter are toward the end of each chapter and are used **as a guide** to indicate the cancer types which can be AJCC-staged using that staging scheme.
- ▶ *Histologic Types listed as inclusions (or not listed – because they are exclusions) for each individual chapter should NOT be AJCC-staged using that chapter.*
- ▶ **Note:** Some chapters are specifically limited to certain cancer types only with a certain anatomic site (such as skin melanomas). Some chapters are specifically limited to certain histologic types 9590-9729 regardless of primary site. This site and/or histology limitation does not limit coding for the primary site here.

## Neoplasms Not in the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ **Pediatric cancers are not included in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual with only a few exceptions. See below for exceptions.**
- ▶ These cancers would ordinarily be considered **un-stage able in this system.**
- ▶ **However,** if a physician has staged a pediatric case using TNM (clinically or pathologically), then this staging **may** be coded and unknown codes should be used for any unspecified fields.
- ▶ **Exceptions:** Musculoskeletal Sites (sarcoma), Lymphoid Neoplasms, Retinoblastoma, and Other Neoplasms of Primary Site and/or Histology where a relevant chapter that would include pediatric cases exists.

## Neoplasms Not in the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ **When the primary site is not clear, not specified or unknown.**
- ▶ AJCC staging of the cancer should be based on "reasonable clinical certainty" of a primary site identification. You cannot assign TNM to C80.9 or C76.\* cases.
- ▶ When there is not "reasonable clinical certainty" indicating one primary site, then the **AJCC staging should be "not applicable"** (as for an unknown primary site).
- ▶ When a case is assigned a Primary Site Code of **"body system, NOS"** that would also include sub-sites such as "colon, NOS" versus "sigmoid colon" the case cannot be staged due to lack of specificity of tumor origin or degree of cancer spread from that NOS primary site at diagnosis, including regional lymph nodes.
- ▶ **Exception:** Histology-based chapters such as "Lymphoid Neoplasms"

## Refer Directly to the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ The Collaborative Stage Data Collection System has spoiled all of us because the API used by everybody for all CS cases uses the primary site and histology you entered in the abstract to make sure you are using the correct CS Schema. The API uses site/histology to automatically pull up the correct CS Schema including Notes, and all the registrar has to do is find the code that best reflects the extension, nodes, mets at diagnosis and the associated SSFs. The algorithm determines if the AJCC data can be populated – not you.
- ▶ Registrars will have to focus more on what is and just as important what is not included in each AJCC Chapter rather than what pops open with your abstractor field menus to ensure you assign TNM and AJCC Stage Group correctly. EDITS will not yet catch errors.
- ▶ The Chapters are treated as though they are comprehensive for cancers of a particular site and/or histology without exception. But, there are histology exceptions for each chapter. These are now treated as inclusion rather than exclusion criteria.
- ▶ So, YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE USING THE RIGHT CHAPTER – the software won't check to make sure you are using the correct chapter schema like CS did. Learning Curve...



## Refer Directly to the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ Once you have sized up the case and read through all of the imaging studies, diagnostic biopsy (any type), resection including lymph nodes if done, neo-adjuvant therapy status, operative report, consultations, etc. Be sure to include and annotate in text the physician stage if provided as a component of your assessment.
- ▶ PLEASE - DO NOT JUST TAKE THE PHYSICIAN STAGE WITHOUT ASSESSING THE CORRECTNESS. You might have additional information in the medical record that was not available or not included in the physician and/or pathologist assignment of TNM or AJCC Stage Group.
- ▶ Use the Definitions of TNM Section in the Chapter to assign the most appropriate T, N, and M values using the AJCC Staging Manual Instructions and Rules for assignment. Remember the Downstaging Rule when assigning. And, note that for some cancers or specific cases you may not be able to assign a value as precisely as you did in CS Ext or CS LN.
- ▶ Make sure you include any prognostic factors (anatomic or non-anatomic) that are required for determining the correct Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups – most are SSFs may also include; age, histologic type, grade of tumor, as well as other non-anatomic SSFs.

## Assigning AJCC TNM - N/A Cases

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### CoC FORDS Values – Blank, X, 88, 99

- T, N, and M data fields
  - Values allowed by FORDS
  - Further explanations from AJCC
  - Blank indicates
    - No information in medical record
    - Do not know if any assessment was performed
    - Criteria not met for this stage classification so each category (T,N,M) is blank
  - X indicates not assessed
    - T cannot be assessed
    - N cannot be assessed
    - Does not apply to M, if patient was examined it can be assigned
    - Criteria met for this stage classification so each category is valid value or X
  - 88 indicates not applicable, not defined by AJCC

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### Code 88 = Not Applicable

- Unknown Primary Site
- Pediatric Neoplasm
- Ill-Defined Primary Site
- Histology Excluded

# Assigning Stage Group - N/A Cases

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## CoC FORDS Values – Blank, X, 88, 99

- Stage group data fields
  - Values allowed by FORDS
  - Further explanations from AJCC
- Blank indicates
  - No information in medical record or
  - Criteria not met for pathologic staging
    - CoC does not allow blank for clinical staging
- 99 indicates unknown, not defined by AJCC
  - 99 indicates T or N are unknown, and stage cannot be assigned
  - 99 indicates T, N, or M are not specific enough to assign stage
    - Example: T2 assigned when T2a or T2b needed to assign stage
  - CoC mandates non-blank for clinical stage group, use 99
  - Do not use 99 if pathologic staging criteria not met, use blank
- 88 indicates not applicable, not defined by AJCC



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## Code 88 = Not Applicable

- Unknown Primary Site
- Pediatric Neoplasm
- Ill-Defined Primary Site
- Histology Excluded

AJCC Registrar Curriculum – Explaining Blanks and X, Ambiguous Terminology and Support for AJCC Staging

# Locating the Correct TNM Chapter

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- ▶ Verify Primary Site against list of ICD-O-3 Topography Codes
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21

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- The definitions for M1 were modified

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- Definition of choroidal invasion, focal versus massive
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**Other**

- A description of proper processing of the enucleated retinoblastoma globe for pathological examination was added

**ANATOMICAL STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS**  
No stage grouping applies

**ICD-O-3 TOPOGRAPHY CODES**  
C69.2 Retina

**ICD-O-3 HISTOLOGY CODE RANGES**  
9510–9514

**ANATOMICAL STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS**

G3 Poorly differentiated  
G4 Undifferentiated

No stage grouping applies

**PROGNOSTIC FACTORS (SITE-SPECIFIC FACTORS) (Recommended for Collection)**

Required for staging None

Clinically significant Extension evaluated at enucleation  
RB gene mutation  
Positive family history of retinoblastoma  
Primary globe-sparing treatment failure  
Greatest linear extent of choroid involved by choroidal tumor invasion

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G1 Well differentiated  
G2 Moderately differentiated

**HISTOPATHOLOGIC TYPE**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. – Chapter 52, Retinoblastoma, p.561 and p.564

# Read the Chapter Introduction, Anatomy and Rules Before You Start

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- ▶ These 3 sections are too often overlooked or skimmed. This is where most of your questions will be answered...not in the coding section.
- ▶ The Rules for Classification instruction you as to which diagnostic and staging tests, imaging, biopsy, sentinel or resected nodes, etc. can and should be used when assigning clinical or pathologic TNM.
- ▶ Sometimes the Cancer Staging Form and/or the AJCC Chapter includes anatomic drawings to help clarify local/regional anatomy.
- ▶ Always review the Prognostic Features as this will help you identify which laboratory tests, symptoms, or other factors are important for staging.

## HELP – The Number of Primaries is NOT the Same - MPH Rules vs. AJCC

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- ▶ What do you do when the MPH Rules tell you the case is one primary and the AJCC criteria tells you the case is two primaries?
- ▶ Why are they different and who is correct?
- ▶ What about "recurrences" versus "new primary"?
- ▶ Will this be "fixed" before the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.
- ▶ Will there be new MPH Rules or updates to MPH Rules before 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

## Practice TNM Staging by Chapter

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- ▶ Read the COMPLETE AJCC Chapter – THEN work 5-10 cases
- ▶ DO NOT START WITH BREAST OR OTHER COMPLEX CHAPTER
- ▶ Please take your time – read, learn, practice
- ▶ 5-10 Colon Cases
- ▶ 5-10 Lung Cases
- ▶ 5-10 Breast Cases
- ▶ 5-10 Bladder Cases
- ▶ 5-10 GYN Cases
- ▶ 5-10 Melanoma Cases
- ▶ Then Other Sites of Interest

There is no  
glory in  
practice, but  
without practice,  
there is no  
glory...  
–Unknown  
curiano.com

## Refer Directly to the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ The Collaborative Stage Data Collection System has spoiled all of us because the API used by everybody for all CS cases uses the primary site and histology you entered in the abstract to make sure you are using the correct CS Schema. The API uses site/histology to automatically pull up the correct CS Schema including Notes, and all the registrar has to do is find the code that best reflects the extension, nodes, mets at diagnosis and the associated SSFs. The algorithm determines if the AJCC data can be populated – not you.
- ▶ Registrars will have to focus more on what is and just as important what is not included in each AJCC Chapter rather than what pops open with your abstractor field menus to ensure you assign TNM and AJCC Stage Group correctly. EDITS will not yet catch errors.
- ▶ The Chapters are treated as though they are comprehensive for cancers of a particular site and/or histology without exception. But, there are histology exceptions for each chapter. These are now treated as inclusion rather than exclusion criteria.
- ▶ So, YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE USING THE RIGHT CHAPTER – the software won't check to make sure you are using the correct chapter schema like CS did. Learning Curve...

## Refer Directly to the AJCC Manual

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- ▶ Once you have sized up the case and read through all of the imaging studies, diagnostic biopsy (any type), resection including lymph nodes if done, neo-adjuvant therapy status, operative report, consultations, etc. Be sure to include and annotate in text the physician stage if provided as a component of your assessment.
- ▶ PLEASE - DO NOT JUST TAKE THE PHYSICIAN STAGE WITHOUT ASSESSING THE CORRECTNESS. You might have additional information in the medical record that was not available or not included in the physician and/or pathologist assignment of TNM or AJCC Stage Group.
- ▶ Use the Definitions of TNM Section in the Chapter to assign the most appropriate T, N, and M values using the AJCC Staging Manual Instructions and Rules for assignment. Remember the Downstaging Rule when assigning. And, note that for some cancers or specific cases you may not be able to assign a value as precisely as you did in CS Ext or CS LN.
- ▶ Make sure you include any prognostic factors (anatomic or non-anatomic) that are required for determining the correct Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups – most are SSFs but may also include; age, histologic type, grade of tumor, as well as other non-anatomic SSFs.

# Using AJCC TNM Staging Forms

American Joint Committee on Cancer  
**Breast Cancer Staging** 7th EDITION

**Primary Tumor (T)**

- T1: Tumor ≤ 2 cm in greatest dimension
- T2: Tumor > 2 cm to ≤ 5 cm in greatest dimension
- T3: Tumor > 5 cm in greatest dimension
- T4a: Tumor of any size with chest wall involvement or skin edema (peau d'orange) or ulceration
- T4b: Tumor of any size with satellite nodules in the chest wall or skin
- T4c: Tumor of any size with chest wall and/or skin involvement and satellite nodules in the chest wall or skin
- T4d: Tumor of any size with inflammatory features
- T4e: Tumor of any size with lymphovascular invasion

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

- N0: No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1: Metastasis in 1 axillary lymph node
- N2: Metastasis in 2-3 axillary lymph nodes
- N3: Metastasis in 4 or more axillary lymph nodes
- N1mi: Metastasis in 1 ipsilateral axillary lymph node, micrometastasis ≤ 0.5 mm
- N2mi: Metastasis in 2-3 ipsilateral axillary lymph nodes, micrometastasis ≤ 0.5 mm
- N3mi: Metastasis in 4 or more ipsilateral axillary lymph nodes, micrometastasis ≤ 0.5 mm

**Distal Metastases (M)**

- M0: No distant metastasis
- M1: Distant metastasis

**Staging Table:**

Stage	T	N	M
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage II	T1	N1	M0
Stage III	T1-2	N1-2	M0
Stage IV	T1-4	N0-3	M1

American Cancer Society | Breast cancer support for AJCC 7th Edition Staging Tables provided by the American Cancer Society | ajcc

American Joint Committee on Cancer  
**Breast Cancer Staging** 7th EDITION

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

- N0: No regional lymph node metastasis
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- N3mi: Metastasis in 4 or more ipsilateral axillary lymph nodes, micrometastasis ≤ 0.5 mm

**Distal Metastases (M)**

- M0: No distant metastasis
- M1: Distant metastasis

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SAMPLE ONLY

# Using AJCC TNM Staging Forms

American Joint Committee on Cancer  
**Lung Cancer Staging** 7th EDITION

**Definitions**

**Primary Tumor (T)**

- T1: Tumor ≤ 3 cm in greatest dimension, abutment to visceral pleura, and no atelectasis, consolidation, or post-obstructive pneumonia
- T2: Tumor > 3 cm to ≤ 5 cm in greatest dimension, abutment to visceral pleura, and no atelectasis, consolidation, or post-obstructive pneumonia
- T3: Tumor > 5 cm in greatest dimension, abutment to visceral pleura, and no atelectasis, consolidation, or post-obstructive pneumonia
- T4: Tumor of any size with invasion of chest wall, diaphragm, mediastinum, heart, vertebral body, or other structures

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

- N0: No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1: Metastasis in ipsilateral peribronchovascular lymph nodes
- N2: Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal lymph nodes
- N3: Metastasis in contralateral mediastinal lymph nodes

**Distal Metastases (M)**

- M0: No distant metastasis
- M1: Distant metastasis

**Staging Table:**

Stage	T	N	M
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage II	T1-2	N1	M0
Stage III	T1-4	N2-3	M0
Stage IV	T1-4	N0-3	M1

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American Joint Committee on Cancer  
**Lung Cancer Staging** 7th EDITION

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

- N0: No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1: Metastasis in ipsilateral peribronchovascular lymph nodes
- N2: Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal lymph nodes
- N3: Metastasis in contralateral mediastinal lymph nodes

**Distal Metastases (M)**

- M0: No distant metastasis
- M1: Distant metastasis

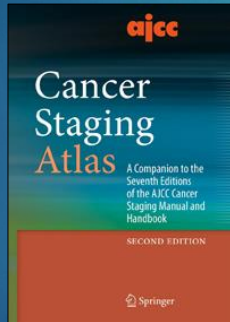
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SAMPLE ONLY

# Other Helpful Information

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## ► Optional AJCC TNM Staging References



\$84.95

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9781461420798>


\$44.95

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9780387884424>

# Other Helpful Information

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**Step 1: Determine which reprint you have**

Printed on acid-free paper  
 (Corrected at 5<sup>th</sup> printing 2010)

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Reprint information at bottom of page iv, 7<sup>th</sup> edition Cancer Staging Manual.  
 The original through the fourth reprint are blank for this line.

**Step 2: Click on the appropriate file links in the table below.**

Reprint	Errata Needed	Use File Links
original - 4 <sup>th</sup> reprint	all posted errata	<a href="#">5th reprint</a> <a href="#">6th reprint</a> <a href="#">7th reprint</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> reprint	all errata AFTER 5 <sup>th</sup> reprint	<a href="#">6th reprint</a> <a href="#">7th reprint</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> reprint	all errata AFTER 6 <sup>th</sup> reprint	<a href="#">7th reprint</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> reprint	all errata AFTER 7 <sup>th</sup> reprint	

## REPRINTS & ERRATA

- Several "Reprints" Published
- New Manuals Complete
- Errata May Be Needed
- Check Printing Reprint
- Download Errata Needed
- Mesh into Your Manual

<https://cancerstaging.org/references-tools/deskreferences/pages/default.aspx>

# Other Helpful Information

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TNM CLASSIFICATION HELP	
MANUAL FOR CANCER STAGING	
<b>Explanatory Notes - Specific Anatomical Sites</b>	TABLE OF CONTENTS
EXPLANATORY NOTES - SPECIFIC ANATOMICAL SITES	Introduction
1. Head and Neck Tumours	Bone and Soft Tissues (TNM 7 & 6)
2. Digestive System Tumours	Breast (TNM 7 & 6)
3. Lung Tumours	Digestive System (TNM 7 & 6)
4. Tumours of Bone and Soft Tissues	Gynaecological (TNM 7 & 6)
5. Skin Tumours	Head and Neck (TNM 7 & 6)
6. Breast Tumours	Lung and Pleura (TNM 7 & 6)
7. Gynaecological Tumours	Ophthalmic (TNM 6)
8. Urological Tumours	Skin (TNM 7 & 6)
9. Ophthalmic Tumours	Urological (TNM 7 & 6)
10. Lymphomas	
11. Appendix	
12. References	

## TNM Help

- AJCC 6<sup>th</sup> ed. & 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Help
  - Introduction Help
  - Abbreviated Chapter
  - Explanatory Notes
  - Common Questions
    - FREE !

<http://cancerstaging.blogspot.com/2005/02/explanatory-notes-specific-anatomical.html>

# Q&A

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