

TO: SEER Registries and other users of the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual (SPCSM)

RE: Revisions for *2010 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual*, Section IV, NAACCR Item # 390, Date of Diagnosis, page 49

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

REVISIONS:

Date of diagnosis must be transmitted in the YYYYMMDD format. Date of diagnosis may be recorded in the transmission format, or recorded in the traditional format (MMDDYYYY) and converted electronically to the transmission format. Regardless of the format, at least **Year** of diagnosis **must be known or estimated for analytic cases**. Year of diagnosis **cannot be blank or unknown for analytic cases**.

Transmitting Dates

Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD). Leave the month, day and/or year* blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.

Common Formats

YYYYMMDD	Complete date is known
YYYYMM	Year and month are known/estimated; day is unknown
YYYY	Year is known/estimated; month and day cannot be estimated or are unknown
Blank	Year*, month, and day cannot be estimated or are unknown
*Non-analytic cases only	

Transmit Instructions

1. Transmit date fields in the year, month, day format (YYYYMMDD).
2. Leave the month, and/or day blank when they cannot be estimated or are unknown.
3. Most SEER registries collect the month, day, and year of diagnosis. When the full date (YYYYMMDD) is transmitted, the seventh and eighth digits (day) will be deleted when the data are received by SEER.

Definitions:

Analytic case: Case for which the registry has information on the original diagnosis and/or the first course of treatment. For definition of first course treatment, see the *2010 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual* Section VI, First Course of Therapy, pp 96 and 97

Non-analytic case: All cases for which the registry does not have information on the original diagnosis and/or first course of treatment. Examples of those cases would be a patient who moved to your state after the original diagnosis and first course of treatment were complete and treatment was for persistent disease or metastatic disease; DCO with history of cancer, unknown when and where patient was diagnosed; follow-back gives no additional information.

Instructions:

Analytic cases

1. Follow-back must be done to obtain the date of diagnosis. If no information can be found, follow instruction 2.
2. Date of diagnosis must be estimated. See the *2010 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual*, Section IV, Date of Diagnosis, Coding Instructions, Coding instruction 3a and 3b on page 50; 9a and 9b on page 51 for estimating date of diagnosis.
 - a. For reports dated December or January of a given year code the month of the report or the month of admission (instruction 9a viii). Coding the month of the report or the month of admission results in a better estimate of the date of diagnosis than coding month as 99 and having the computer assign July as the month of diagnosis, for example.
 - b. When the diagnosis date is stated to be spring, summer, fall, or winter, follow instructions 9a I, ii, iii, and iv.

Non-analytic cases

When the only information available is that the case is non-analytic, the best date for that case is unknown month and year. It is not useful to assign a speculative date of diagnosis to non-analytic cases.