



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0613/06 Multiple primary tumours in the same organ

### Q.

We would like to clarify the coding of more than one primary neoplasm in the same organ. The most common cases that we see are with Breast Cancer & lung cancer.

We see a lot of cases where a patient has Multi-focal breast cancer with primary tumours in different quadrants of the breast. Some Coders are assigning C50.8 *Overlapping malignant lesion of breast* & others are coding out the code for each quadrant of the breast.

For example, if there is a tumour in the Upper Outer Quadrant & the Upper Inner Quadrant, then codes being assigned are either C50.8 or the combination of codes C50.4 *Malignant neoplasm of upper-outer quadrant of breast* and C50.2 *Malignant neoplasm of upper-inner quadrant of breast*.

### A.

Occasionally multiple primaries occur with separate tumours in the same organ or in different organs. The separate tumours may have the same or different morphology. When there are multiple tumours, the documentation should be carefully checked to determine whether the tumours are considered to be multiple separate primaries, or a primary tumour with metastatic spread. The clinical coder should be guided by the clinical documentation and query with the clinician if unsure.

For the examples you provide, a separate site code for each primary site should be assigned.

Example 1: Three cancers in left breast - one tumour 11 o'clock (UIQ = C50.2) and two tumours at 2 o'clock (UOQ = C50.4), all invasive ductal carcinomas and all ER/PR positive but HER2 negative

Codes assigned:

C50.2 *Malignant neoplasm of upper-inner quadrant*

C50.4 *Malignant neoplasm of upper-outer quadrant of breast*

M8500/3 *Infiltrating duct carcinoma*

plus codes for any metastases

Example 2: Non small cell lung cancer, with one nodule upper lobe (C34.1) and one nodule lower lobe (C34.3), biopsy of scalene node showed adenocarcinoma

Code assignment:

C34.1 *Malignant neoplasm of upper lobe, bronchus or lung*

C34.3 *Malignant neoplasm of lower lobe, bronchus or lung*

M8140/3 *Adenocarcinoma NOS*

C77.0 *Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes of head, face and neck*  
plus codes for any other metastases



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Department of **Health**

'Overlapping' site codes are for use when one tumour involves contiguous sites (next to each other) and the point of origin cannot be determined. For example, a left breast tumour at 3 o'clock would be coded C50.8 Overlapping malignant lesion of breast if it couldn't be determined whether it originated in the UOQ or LOQ.

## **DECISION**

**When there are multiple tumours present in the same organ, the documentation should be carefully checked to determine whether the tumours are considered to be multiple separate primaries, or a primary tumour with metastatic spread. The clinical coder should be guided by the clinical documentation and query with the clinician if unsure. If multiple separate primaries are confirmed by the clinician or documentation, each site should be coded out separately.**

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