

**Head and Neck Multiple Primary Rules - Text**  
**C000-C148, C300-C329**  
**(Excludes lymphoma and leukemia – M9590 – 9989 and Kaposi sarcoma M9140)**

**UNKNOWN IF SINGLE OR MULTIPLE TUMORS**

*Note:* Tumor(s) not described as metastasis

**Rule M1** When it is not possible to determine if there is a **single tumor or multiple tumors**, opt for a single tumor and abstract as a single primary.\*

*Note:* Use this rule only after all information sources have been exhausted.

*Example 1:* History and physical exam states large tumor in nasopharynx. Biopsy base of tongue shows squamous cell carcinoma. No further information available. Abstract as a single primary.

*Example 2:* Pathology report states extensive squamous cell carcinoma involving nasopharynx and larynx. Fragments of epiglottis positive for squamous cell carcinoma. No other information available. Abstract as a single primary.

**\* Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.**  
**This is the end of instructions for Unknown if Single or Multiple Tumors.**

**SINGLE TUMOR**

*Note 1:* Tumor not described as metastasis

*Note 2:* Includes combinations of in situ and invasive

**Rule M2** A **single tumor** is always a single primary. \*

*Note:* The tumor may overlap onto or extend into adjacent/contiguous site or subsite.

**This is the end of instructions for Single Tumor.**

**\* Prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.**

**MULTIPLE TUMORS**

Multiple tumors may be a single primary or multiple primaries.

*Note 1:* Tumors not described as metastases

*Note 2:* Includes combinations of in situ and invasive

**Rule M3** Tumors on the **right side and the left side** of a **paired site** are multiple primaries. \*\*

*Note:* See Table 1 for list of paired sites.

**Rule M4** Tumors on the **upper lip** (C000 or C003) **and the lower lip** (C001 or C004) are multiple primaries. \*\*

**Rule M5** Tumors on the **upper gum** (C030) **and the lower gum** (C031) are multiple primaries. \*\*

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- Rule M6** Tumors in the **nasal cavity** (C300) and the **middle ear** (C301) are multiple primaries. \*\*
- Rule M7** Tumors in sites with ICD-O-3 **topography** codes that are **different** at the second (Cxxx) and/or third (Cxx) character are multiple primaries. \*\*
- Rule M8** An **invasive** tumor **following** an **in situ** tumor more than 60 days after diagnosis is a multiple primary. \*\*  
*Note 1:* The purpose of this rule is to ensure that the case is counted as an incident (invasive) case when incidence data are analyzed.  
*Note 2:* Abstract as multiple primaries even if the medical record/physician states it is recurrence or progression of disease.
- Rule M9** Tumors diagnosed **more than five (5) years** apart are multiple primaries. \*\*
- Rule M10** Abstract as a single primary\* when one tumor is:  
 • **Cancer/malignant neoplasm, NOS** (8000) and another is a **specific histology** or  
 • **Carcinoma, NOS** (8010) and another is a **specific carcinoma** or  
 • **Adenocarcinoma, NOS** (8140) and another is a **specific adenocarcinoma** or  
 • **Squamous cell carcinoma, NOS** (8070) and another is **specific squamous cell carcinoma** or  
 • **Melanoma, NOS** (8720) and another is a **specific melanoma**  
 • **Sarcoma, NOS** (8800) and another is a **specific sarcoma**
- Rule M11** Tumors with ICD-O-3 **histology** codes that are **different** at the first (xxxx), second (xxxx) or third (xxx) number are multiple primaries. \*\*
- Rule M12** Tumors that **do not meet any** of the above **criteria** are abstracted as a single primary. \*  
*Note 1:* When an invasive tumor follows an in situ tumor within 60 days, abstract as a single primary.  
*Note 2:* All cases covered by Rule M12 have the same first 3 numbers in ICD-O-3 histology code.

**This is the end of instructions for Multiple Tumors.**

**\* If a single primary, prepare one abstract. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code.**

**\*\* If multiple primaries, prepare two or more abstracts. Use the histology coding rules to assign the appropriate histology code to each case abstracted.**

**Rule M12 Examples:** The following are examples of cases that use Rule M12. This is NOT intended to be an exhaustive set of examples; there are other cases that may be classified as a single primary. **Warning: Using only these case examples to determine the number of primaries can result in major errors.**

<b>Example 1:</b> Multifocal tumors in floor of mouth	<b>Example 2:</b> An in situ and invasive tumor diagnosed within 60 days	<b>Example 3:</b> In situ following an invasive tumor more than 60 days apart
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