

Person with cancer—regional lymph node metastasis status, N stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed) code X[XX]

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Person with cancer—regional lymph node metastasis status, N stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed) code X[XX]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Cancer staging—N stage code
METEOR identifier:	403661
Registration status:	Health! , Standard 07/12/2011
Definition:	The absence or presence and extent of regional lymph node metastasis in a person with cancer, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person with cancer—regional lymph node metastasis status
Value Domain:	N stage (UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed) code X[XX]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	International Union against Cancer (UICC) TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours 7th edition	
Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	String	
Format:	X[XX]	
Maximum character length:	3	
Supplementary values:	Value	Meaning
	997	Not applicable
	998	Unknown
	999	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Valid N codes from the current edition of the UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours. Record the stage in Arabic numerals and the appropriate upper or lower case alphabetic character omitting the prefix "N". For example, record stage N1b for malignant melanoma of the skin as "1b". Record if the N stage value has a prefix of "c" or "p". For example, record retinoblastoma N stage pN1 as "p1". Refer to the TNM Supplement: A Commentary on Uniform Use, 3rd Edition for coding rules.
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Source and reference attributes

Reference documents:	Wittekind C et al (Editors) 2003. International Union Against Cancer (UICC): TNM supplement: A commentary on uniform use, 3rd edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
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Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Record the absence or presence and extent of regional lymph node metastasis at the time of diagnosis of the cancer.

TNM staging applies to solid tumours excluding brain tumours.

Choose the lower (less advanced) N category when there is any uncertainty.

The current edition of the AJCC (American Joint Committee on Cancer) Cancer Staging Manual provides an equivalent and alternative source of N stage codes.

Staging classification systems other than the TNM classification system are recorded separately.

Collection methods: This information should be obtained from the patient's medical record.

Comments: Cancer stage is an important determinant of treatment and prognosis, and is used to evaluate new treatments and analyse outcomes. Survival analysis is adjusted by stage at diagnosis and distribution of cancer cases by type and stage.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Cancer Australia

Reference documents: Sobin LH, Gospodarowicz MK, Wittekind C (Editors) 2009. International Union Against Cancer (UICC): TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th edition. Wiley-Blackwell

American Joint Committee on Cancer 2010. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 7th edition. New York: Springer

American College of Surgeons 2002. Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS), 2009 revision. Commission on Cancer

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person with cancer—regional lymph node metastasis status, N stage \(UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 6th ed\) code XX Health!](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

See also [Cancer staging—staging basis of cancer, code A Health!](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

See also [Cancer staging—staging basis of cancer, code A Health!](#), Standard 07/12/2011

See also [Person with cancer—distant metastasis status, M stage \(UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed\) code X\[XX\] Health!](#), Standard 07/12/2011

See also [Person with cancer—extent of primary cancer, TNM stage \(UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed\) code X\[XX\] Health!](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

See also [Person with cancer—primary tumour status, T stage \(UICC TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th ed\) code X\[XXX\] Health!](#), Standard 07/12/2011

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Breast cancer \(cancer registries\) NBPDS](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 01/09/2012

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/05/2014

[Cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 14/05/2015

[Cancer \(clinical\) NBPDS](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 14/05/2015