



## **Collection and Coding Clarifications for Central Nervous System Tumors**

Date of clarification: March 27, 2006

**Is it possible for a benign schwannoma to arise on the spinal cord or does one always arise from nerve roots coming off the cord? Example: The medical record indicates a C2-C3 schwannoma. Is this a reportable neoplasm?**

Anatomically, schwannomas must be derived from Schwann cells which are not a part of the CNS; therefore, they must all come from peripheral nerves, and as such come from nerve roots. The definition of reportable non-malignant sites includes the spinal cord (C72). It does not include "spinal nerves" (C47); consequently, schwannomas of the spinal cord area are not reportable.

**If the surgeon states "resection of intradural extramedullary schwannoma," does this mean that the tumor is outside the cord but within the dura?**

Yes, but it also means it is on a peripheral nerve root and therefore is not reportable.

**Are vestibular schwannomas reportable?**

Vestibular schwannomas, also known as acoustic neuromas, arise from the VIIIth cranial nerve (C72.4). Tumors of the cranial nerves are reportable. Code these tumors to acoustic nerve C72.4 M-9560/0.

**Are cerebellopontine angle tumors reportable?**

Cerebellopontine angle schwannomas are VIIIth cranial nerve schwannomas, and are reportable. However, cerebellopontine angle tumors also include meningiomas and epidermoids, so you must have histologic verification to code them correctly.

**Is a schwannoma of the face reportable?**

Subcutaneous or intramuscular schwannomas, including those on the face or neck, arise from a peripheral nerve root; therefore, they are not reportable.