

Correctly Coding Mammary Carcinoma (Updated 12/11/14)

The proper coding of “mammary” carcinoma has been an issue for years. Currently there is no definition of “mammary” carcinoma as a histological type in ICD-O-3. Prior to 2013, this histology was not consistently defined or uniformly used by all pathologists. When a pathologist provided a final diagnosis that stated either “invasive **mammary** carcinoma, no specific type” OR just “invasive carcinoma of the breast, no special type” for our purposes he was basically saying that the patient has **breast** cancer NOS.

Thus **for all breast cases** where a pathologist fails to provide a more specific histology by documenting either “invasive mammary carcinoma NOS” OR “invasive carcinoma (of breast) NOS”, you must code the histology to “carcinoma NOS (8010/3).” **Mammary Carcinoma NOS should NOT be coded to “ductal” carcinoma (8500/3) unless qualified with “no special type” by the pathologist—see below**

With the release of the *WHO Classification of Tumours of the Breast, Fourth Edition* this prior line of thinking changed. This current edition now refers to “invasive duct carcinoma” as “invasive carcinoma, no special type and now includes “infiltrating mammary carcinoma.”

Thus per SEER [SEER SINQ 20130170 and Ask A SEER Registrar (ASW07222)], **for cases diagnosed 01/01/2013 forward**, you may code “mammary carcinoma, **no special type (NST)**” OR “invasive carcinoma (of breast) **NST**” to “**infiltrating ductal carcinoma (8500/3)**.” Carcinoma NOS (8010/3) should not be coded when the histology is qualified with “no special type.”

Per SEER, a coding clarification for “invasive mammary carcinoma” will be added to new MPH Breast revisions coming in 2016.

In summary:

DIAGNOSIS DATE	Histology	CODE TO
All breast cases	Invasive Carcinoma (of breast) NOS Mammary Carcinoma NOS	8010/3
01/01/2013 forward	Invasive Carcinoma (of breast) NST Mammary Carcinoma NST	8500/3