

Grade/Differentiation Coding Clarification for 2012

FORDS 2012 grade coding rules have *now deviated* from those of SEER. The entire “Morphology: Grade” section in “Cancer Identification” was replaced with rules to determine when to code grade information in CS special grades, Grade Path System (NAACCR Item #449) and Grade Path Value (NAACCR Item #441) or Grade/Differentiation (NAACCR Item #440). *The Commission on Cancer no longer supports conversion from other systems into Grade/Differentiation if the information can properly be recorded in one of the other items. However, the **CoC defers to central registry coding requirements regarding this issue.***

Since Louisiana is a SEER Registry, *recording or converting CS special grades and/or Grade Path Value/Grade Path System into Grade/Differentiation is **still required by the Louisiana Tumor Registry.*** For the LTR nothing has changed with regards to coding the grade/differentiation field. *Registrars are instructed to follow **SEER rules** with regards to coding grade/differentiation and are to continue to use the various grade conversion tables which they have used for years. For example, the Gleason Conversion Table for prostate cases and the Bloom-Richardson score to SEER grade table for breast cases.*

Additional grade conversion tables include the *Terminology Conversion Table*, the *Two-Grade Conversion Table* and the *Three-Grade Conversion Table* located on pages 80-81 of the 2012 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual (SPCSM). There are also several sites that have *site-specific grade coding guidelines*. These coding guidelines are imbedded within Appendix C of the 2012 SPCSM. I have extracted these guidelines and placed them into a searchable, bookmarked .pdf document entitled [SEER Site Specific Coding Guidelines](#) (located on the Resourceful Registrar’s page of the LTR website under “CODING REFERENCES” then “Abstracting and Coding Guides.”)

The 2012 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual may be downloaded at <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/codingmanuals/>.