

Laterality

Organization	Field Name	ID	Required
KCR	Laterality	30410	yes
NAACCR	Laterality	410	yes

Field Length: 1

Enter the one digit code which describes this primary with regard to involvement of one or both sides of paired organs (see list below).

Code	Description
0	Not a paired site
1	Right: origin of primary
2	Left: origin of primary
3	Only one side involved, right or left origin unspecified
4	Bilateral involvement at time of diagnosis, lateral origin unknown for a single primary; or both ovaries involved simultaneously, single histology; bilateral retinoblastoma; bilateral Wilms tumors
5	Paired site: Midline tumor (effective with 01/01/2010 dx)
9	Paired site, but no information concerning laterality

Coding Instructions

1. Use code 0 (not a paired organ) when:

- The primary site is not a paired site
- Primary site is unknown primary site (C80.9)
- Laterality is unknown for a death certificate only (DCO) case and the primary site is NOT one of the primary site codes listed in the table below: (Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded)

2. Code laterality using codes 1-9 for all of the sites listed in the table: (Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded)

- Laterality may be coded for sites other than those required, for example, Thyroid

3. Code the side where the primary tumor **originated**.

- Assign code 3 if the laterality is not known but the tumor is confined to a single side of the paired organ.

Example: Pathology report: Patient has a 2cm carcinoma in the upper pole of the kidney. Code laterality as 3 because there is documentation that the disease exists in only one kidney, but it is unknown if the disease originated in the right or left kidney.

4. Code 4 is seldom used EXCEPT for the following:

- Both ovaries involved simultaneously with a single histology, or epithelial histologies (8000-8799)
- Diffuse bilateral lung nodules
- Bilateral retinoblastomas
- Bilateral Wilms tumors
- Both breasts when inflammatory carcinoma is bilateral at diagnosis
- Bilateral involvement at time of diagnosis and lateral origin unknown for a site listed in the table Sites for Which Laterality Must Be Recorded

Example: Both arms are involved with Kaposi sarcoma and no other sites are involved. It is not known on which arm the Kaposi sarcoma originated. Assign Laterality code 4.

Skin of upper limb and shoulder is listed as a paired organ in the table Sites for Which Laterality Must Be Recorded.

5. Assign code 5 when the tumor originates in the midline of a site listed in 5.a

- C700, C710-C714, C722-C725, C443, C444, C445

- i. Do not assign code 5 to sites not listed in 5.a

Example 1: Patient has an excision of a melanoma located just above the umbilicus (C445, laterality code 5).

Example 2: Patient has a midline meningioma of the cerebral meninges (C700, laterality code 5).

6. Assign code 9 when:

- a. The neoplasm originated in a paired site and

- i. Laterality is unknown, AND

- ii. There is no statement that only one side of the paired organ is involved

Example 1: Admitting history says patient was diagnosed with lung cancer based on positive sputum cytology. Patient is treated for painful bony metastases. There is no information about laterality in the diagnosis of this lung cancer.

Example 2: Widely metastatic ovarian carcinoma surgically debulked. Ovaries could not be identified in the specimen.

- b. Laterality is unknown for a death certificate only (DCO) case with primary site code listed in the table below (Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded)

7. Document the laterality in a text field

Sites for Which Laterality Codes Must Be Recorded

Starting with cases diagnosed January 1, 2004 and later, laterality is coded for select invasive, benign, and borderline primary intracranial and CNS tumors.

A laterality code other than 0 must be assigned for the sites listed in the table below. There is an effective date for assigning laterality for some of the sites. If the site is not listed on the table, code 0 may be assigned for laterality.

Laterality may be coded for sites other than those required below. For example: Code 2 may be assigned for a tumor originating in the left lobe of thyroid.

Note: Laterality will be automatically coded to 0 in SEER*DMS for sites not listed in the table below.

Code ICD-O-3	Site or Subsite
C07.9	Parotid gland
C08.0	Submandibular gland
C08.1	Sublingual gland
C09.8	Overlapping lesion of tonsil
C09.9	Tonsil, NOS
C30.1	Middle ear
C31.0	Maxillary sinus
C31.2	Frontal sinus
C34.1-C34.9	Lung
C38.4	Pleura
C40.0	Long bones of upper limb and scapula
C40.1	Short bones of upper limb
C40.2	Long bones of lower limb
C40.3	Short bones of lower limb
C44.1	Skin of eyelid
C44.2	Skin of external ear
C44.3	Skin of other and unspecified parts of face (if midline, code 5)

C44.4	Skin of scalp and neck
C44.5	Skin of trunk (if midline, code 5)
C44.6	Skin of arm and shoulder
C44.7	Skin of leg and hip
C47.1	Peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system of upper limb and shoulder
C47.2	Peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system of lower limb and hip
C49.1	Connective, subcutaneous, and other soft tissue of upper limb and shoulder
C49.2	Connective, subcutaneous, and other soft tissue of lower limb and hip
C50.0-C50.9	Breast (male and female)
C56.9	Ovary
C57.0	Fallopian tube
C62.0-C62.9	Testis
C63.0	Epididymis
C63.1	Spermatic cord
C64.9	Kidney, NOS
C65.9	Renal pelvis
C66.9	Ureter
C69.0-C69.9	Eye and lacrimal gland
C70.0	Cerebral meninges
C71.0	Cerebrum
C71.1	Frontal lobe
C71.2	Temporal lobe
C71.3	Parietal lobe
C71.4	Occipital lobe
C72.2	Olfactory nerve
C72.3	Optic nerve
C72.4	Acoustic nerve
C72.5	Cranial nerve, NOS
C74.0-C74.9	Suprarenal gland
C75.4	Carotid body