

# **FORDS**

## **Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards Revised for 2009**

(includes all updates since originally published in July 2002)





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# Preface 2009

The *Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS)* manual provides definitions and detailed instructions for coding patient diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes. The manual also describes the types of cases that must be abstracted and followed and explains the relationships among data items. Cancer registry data maintained with standardized quality control mechanisms supports meaningful evaluation and analysis.

## **FORDS: Revised for 2009**

Following the initial release of *FORDS* in July 2002, the manual has undergone a series of modifications and revisions. In coordination with the SEER program, *FORDS: Revised for 2009* contains all of the necessary additional documentation to support changes in case reporting to accommodate non-malignant brain/CNS tumors, comorbidity and complications, Collaborative Staging, the *2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Rules*, National Provider Identifier codes, palliative care, the override flag data items, and the 2008 changes to the physician staging requirements. Implementation of *FORDS: Revised for 2009* is required of all Commission on Cancer (CoC)-approved cancer programs starting with cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2009.

In cooperation with other national standard-setters, the CoC has added some new material within this release of *FORDS: Revised for 2009*. A brief description of those changes follows.

**In utero diagnoses.** Beginning in 2009, the dates of diagnosis and treatment for tumors developed while *in utero* should reflect the dates on which they occur. In the past, these dates were assigned to the date the baby was born.

**Embolization.** Instructions have been added in Sections I and II for coding the various types of embolization used with cancer patients.

**Physician AJCC Staging.** New Commission on Cancer rules in 2008 that altered the previous requirements for physician staging have been clarified and incorporated into this volume; they were initially posted as separate addenda. Clinical T, N, M, and Stage Group must be reported for Class of Case 1 and 2. If they are not available from physician notes, the registrar will code them directly. The Collaborative Staging elements will continue to reflect the final stage for all cases.

**Codes to use for removal of single lymph nodes for lymphomas.** While the rules have not changed, the instructions for handling these procedures have been clarified.

Numerous other clarifications have been incorporated into this volume. See **Appendix C** for a list of all changes to *FORDS* since it was originally published in 2002.

