

American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Version 9 Staging Protocols: What is new and what is old?

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Disclosures

- I have no relevant financial disclosures

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Objectives

- Why we stage cancer
- The case for change from 8th Edition to Version 9
- Overview of the Version 9 process
- Current Version 9 protocols
- AJCC subscription model

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Why we stage cancer

- Critical **benchmark for defining prognosis** and for determining the best **treatment approach for patients**
- Forms the basis for **defining groups** for inclusion in clinical trials
- Forms the basis for understanding the changes in **population** cancer incidence, **extent of disease** at initial presentation, and the **overall impact of improvements** in cancer treatment

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ACS AJCC American Joint Committee on Cancer
American College of Surgeons

From 8 th Edition Manual	To Version 9 Staging System
Hardcopy book	Leverages Content Management infrastructure to support multiple products
Chapters	Protocols for each disease site
Published every 5-7 years	AJCC will release ~ 5 protocols each year
Entire manual (all chapters) published simultaneously	Protocols published disease site by disease site based on needs of clinical care & surveillance communities and in coordination with WHO Blue Book update cycle
Print manual → "static"	Electronic platform facilitates rapid integration of updated staging information into EHR and cancer registry software as well as other products

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AJCC Version 9: What's new?

- All disease sites will have **evidence to drive any proposed changes** from the 8th edition
- Data review is **formalized through the Evidence-based Medicine Core Team**
- The **protocol is a synoptically formatted** document with tabular data up front, some new sections, and a standardized set of content elements
- **Overall cycle times for release** are based upon:
 - The deadlines set by **AJCC partners** in the Cancer Surveillance Community
 - The **requirements for digital information** by software vendors and the CDC

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Disease site	Version 9 vs 8 th Edition
Cervix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPV status with p16 • Imaging • Node categories
Anus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminated stage 0 • Stage IIB: T1N1M0, T2N1M0 • Stage IIIA: T3N0M0, T3N1M0
Appendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mucinous, Non-mucinous and Signet-ring cell survival curves • LAMN staging explanations
Brain and Spinal Cord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved clarity of content • Medulloblastoma M category for metastasis
Vulva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New T4 category • Changes to N categories • Imaging
GI Neuroendocrine Tumors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T1NXM0 assigned to pathological stage I • Discussion of endoscopic resection

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Key Takeaways

- AJCC Version 9 protocol changes based on highest level of available evidence
- Version 9 is a fully digitally-based system
- Subscription model for *AJCC Staging Online* product

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