

TEXT WRITING

Text is required on all abstracts submitted to the HTR. To meet the minimum requirements, the text must justify the coding for the following data items:

Primary Site

Histology

Grade

Behavior

Stage- CS Tumor size

CS Extension

CS Lymph nodes

CS Mets at diagnosis

Treatment information

Overrides- All overrides must have a statement that documents the reason for the override.

Example: Primary site/Histology conflict was overridden based on review by Dr. _____.

The central registry is required to perform visual edits on a percentage of all abstracts submitted. Visual editing is a process that verifies the codes and text correlate. Without supporting text, visual editing can not be performed and the central registry is unable to determine the accuracy of the data.

The central registry also uses text to merge information submitted by different hospitals on the same case. On a daily basis, the central registry staff is faced with making decisions about how to handle multiple abstracts submitted for a single patient. Without text it is extremely difficult to decide whether the patient has a single malignancy or multiple primaries.

Example: Hospital A: On Feb. 22, 2001 a patient has a scan that identifies a mass on the adrenal gland. On Feb 24, 2001 the patient undergoes a needle biopsy of the mass. The pathology report confirms an adenocarcinoma in the specimen. Hospital A submits an abstract with the primary site listed as adrenal gland (C74.9) and an unknown summary stage (9).

Hospital B: On March 21, 2001, the patient goes to Hospital B for further workup and resection. A CT scan identifies a mass in the transverse colon that appears to extend into the adrenal gland. The surgeon performs a resection. The pathology report confirms the transverse colon mass to be adenocarcinoma with invasion into the adrenal gland.

Hospital B submits an abstract with the primary site listed as transverse colon (C18.4) and the summary stage coded to distant.

If neither hospital includes text on the abstracts, the Central Registry receives the following information:

Patient X:	Hospital A: 2/24/01	Primary site: C 74.9	Stage: 9	Hist: 8140/39
	Hospital B: 3/21/01	Primary site: C 18.4	Stage: 7	Hist: 8140/39

Without text there is no way of knowing these abstracts represent the same malignancy; and, erroneously these abstracts would be entered into the database as two primaries and inflate the incidences of cancer in Hawaii.

TEXT WRITING (cont'd)

WHAT TEXT IS NEEDED

Text writing (abstracting) is the process of condensing a patient's medical chart into a few short lines of information that validate the coding of the data items. To save time and space, standard abbreviations should be used whenever possible (See a listing of common abbreviations included in this chapter.) When justifying staging information it is very important to be specific regarding what tissues or organs are involved. (Example: into the serosa; 4 lymph nodes positive; mets to the liver; in-situ; into the submucosa.) **General statements such as “localized”, “regional”, and “distant” are not specific and should never be used to justify the stage.**

While reviewing a medical report, think: location, size, extension (local, regional, lymph nodes, mets), histology, grade, date and procedure performed. The text worksheet on the following page can be used as a guide for identifying valuable information located in a medical chart and what should be documented in the text fields.

Remember: *Almost all reports can be reduced into a few words that justify the coding.*

Example: 4/7/01 Cystoscopy; bladder biopsies-

The patient was placed in the lithotomy position. Under satisfactory general anesthesia, the cystoscope was passed into the bladder. At this point, a careful evaluation of the bladder revealed a relatively large, approximately 3cm, tumor on the dome of the bladder. This appeared sessile and it was obviously a malignancy. There was surrounding erythema. The rest of the bladder showed some inflammatory changes with erythema, but no overt lesions were noted.

Example of text for the above report:

4/7/01 Cystoscopy: 3cm sessile tumor, bladder dome. Obvious mal.

Additional examples of text writing are located in Section 2. See the *Text* data items.