

**DATA STANDARDS AND QUALITY CONTROL  
MEMORANDUM  
DSQC #2008-03**

**CATEGORY: CLARIFICATIONS**  
**SUBJECT: Brain Surgery Codes**  
**EFFECTIVE: Cases Diagnosed 1/1/2008 forward**

The following appears in the June 2008 issue of the *Commission on Cancer Flash*:

**Clarification of Primary Brain Surgery Codes in FORDS**

CoC has taken several steps recently to correct a widespread misinterpretation of the FORDS Primary Brain Surgery codes. The problematic codes are reproduced below with clarifications added in capital letters. Although registries that have not applied the codes correctly or consistently are advised to review their brain surgery cases diagnosed since FORDS was implemented in 2003 with primary site surgery codes 40 or 55, and make any corrections necessary, the CCR does not require recoding cases already submitted.

20	<p>Local excision (biopsy) of lesion or mass.  <b>USE THIS CODE TO DESCRIBE EXCISION (REMOVAL) OF THE PRIMARY TUMOR, OR "DEBULKING" (LESS THAN FULL REMOVAL OF THE TUMOR). MOST PRIMARY BRAIN SURGERY IS CODE 20.</b></p>
40	<p>Partial resection.  <b>USE THIS CODE TO DESCRIBE PARTIAL RESECTION OF A LOBE.</b></p>
55	<p>Gross total resection.  <b>USE THIS CODE TO DESCRIBE GROSS TOTAL RESECTION OF A LOBE. THIS IS A LESS COMMON FORM OF SURGICAL TREATMENT.</b></p>