

**DATA STANDARDS AND QUALITY CONTROL
MEMORANDUM
DSQC #2009-01**

CATEGORY: CLARIFICATION
SUBJECT: Focal, Foci and Focus in Coding Histology
EFFECTIVE: Cases Diagnosed 1/1/07 Forward

We received clarification regarding the terms focal, foci and focus in coding histology during a SEER Quality Improvement Video Teleconference on December 9, 2008.

Question: Can you clarify the use of the terms “focal”, “foci” and “focus” in coding histology?

Answer: These terms are **not used** to code histology.

The following questions are currently in SINC that support SEER’s clarification that the terms focal, foci and focus are **not used** to code histology in using MPH rules.

SINC #20071084

Q: MP/H Rules/Histology – Prostate: How is an “acinar adenocarcinoma with *focal* large duct adenocarcinoma” coded?

A: As long as this is NOT urothelial carcinoma extending to the prostatic ducts, code histology to 8140/3 [adenocarcinoma] using rule H10. **Do not code histologies designated as “focal.”**

SINC # 20081130

Q: MP/H Rules – Breast: What histology code is used for lobular with *focal* ductal features? Do we ignore the *focal* features and code as lobular or do we use the combination code for duct and lobular?

A: Use rule H14 and assign code 8520 [lobular]. **Ignore histologies described as “focal,” “foci,” or “focus.”** This instruction will be added to the next version of the MP/H manual.

SINC # 20081132

Q: MP/H Rules – Breast: What is the histology code for a breast tumor that is ductal ca with *focal* squamous differentiation?

A: Use rule H14 and code the histology 8500 [duct carcinoma]. **Ignore histologies described as “focal,” focus,” or foci.”** This instruction will be added to the histology rules in the upcoming revision of the MP/H manual.

Note: The CCR does not require recoding cases already submitted.