

**DATA STANDARDS AND QUALITY CONTROL  
MEMORANDUM  
DSQC #2003-03**

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**CATEGORY:** CLARIFICATION  
**SUBJECT:** Multiple Primaries - Breast  
**EFFECTIVE:** December 8, 2003

The CCR has received the following clarification from SEER regarding the use of the combination code for breast primaries.

When abstracting and coding breast cancer, determine if there is one tumor with complex morphologies or separate tumors with different histologies. Use the following guideline to determine number of abstracts:

- ❑ One tumor with complex morphologies; prepare one abstract
- ❑ Separate tumors with different histologies; prepare one abstract for each tumor

The use of combination codes for breast primaries with separate tumors in different locations are limited to the following scenarios and coded as one primary:

- ❑ ductal and lobular ca (8522)
- ❑ Paget's Disease and intraductal ca (8543)
- ❑ Paget's Disease and infiltrating ductal ca (8541)

Other histologic type differences that occur as separate tumors in different parts of the same breast are coded as multiple primaries. ICD-O-3 histology code 8523 is NOT to be used to combine different histologies from separate lesions; it is used for mixed histologies in a single lesion.

CCR Inquiry System ID #540, 604 and 640 will be revised to reflect this clarification.

After the implementation date of this memo (30 days after effective date), breast cases incorrectly submitted as one primary will not be processed by the regions. These cases will be returned and need to be resubmitted as two primaries.