

# AJCC T, N, and M Category Options for Registry Data Items in 2016

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## AJCC

**American Joint Committee on Cancer**

Validating science. Improving patient care.

# Overview

- Provide guidance to cancer registrars on key topics
  - AJCC T category options for registry data items in 2016
  - AJCC N category options for registry data items in 2016
  - AJCC M category options for registry data items in 2016
  - Information and questions on AJCC staging

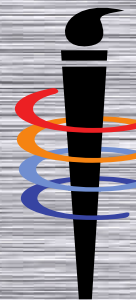


# Learning Objectives

- Recognize new category options based on AJCC rules
- Demonstrate correct usage of new category options
- Employ critical thinking to assigning AJCC stage
- Identify resources for AJCC staging



# Registry Data Items – T, N, and M Category Options



# Completing Registry Data Items

- Registry data items seen on software screen
  - CLINICAL            T        N        M        Stage Group
  - PATHOLOGIC        T        N        M        Stage Group
- Use appropriate T, N, and M categories
  - Based on what is needed to assign stage correctly
  - Follows AJCC staging rules
- Categories will be grouped in the appropriate line
- Match stage assigned by physician
  - According to AJCC rules



# Registry Data Items - Examples

- Patient had bowel obstruction and went directly to surgery where colon cancer was found
- Physician assigned pathologic stage
  - pT4a pN2a cM0 Stage III C
- cT blank    cN blank    cM blank    Stage group blank or 99
- pT4a        pN2a        cM0        Stage group 3C
- Cannot assign clinical stage, cancer not known prior to definitive treatment
  - AJCC is stage group blank, but CoC requires non-blank value for clinical stage
- Appropriate M category assigned for pathologic stage



# Registry Data Items - Examples

- Clinical stage of in situ cancer of breast, with total mastectomy and no nodal resection
- pTis cN0 cM0 Stage group 0
- pTis cN0 cM0 Stage group 0
- Can assign clinical and pathologic stage
  - Rules state in situ assigned pTis cN0 cM0 for clinical and pathologic
    - pTis serves as reminder in situ dx **cannot** be made on imaging alone
    - pTis for clinical staging has been the rule since the AJCC 5<sup>th</sup> edition
  - Rules state both clinical and pathologic stage 0
  - Rule put in place because nodes not usually resected for in situ ca
  - Can use cN0 for N category in pathologic stage
  - Meets breast criteria for pathologic classification



# Registry Data Items - Examples

- Clinical stage of in situ cancer of bladder with TURB and no cystectomy
- pTis cN0 cM0 Stage group 0
- pT blank pN blank pM blank Stage group blank or 99
- Cannot assign pathologic stage
  - Bladder criteria of cystectomy has not been met
  - Common to not find invasive tumor on TURB
- Rules state in situ assigned pTis cN0 cM0
  - pTis serves as reminder in situ dx **cannot** be from imaging alone
  - pTis for clinical staging has been the rule since the AJCC 5<sup>th</sup> edition





# Registry Data Items - Examples

- Diagnostic workup includes core needle biopsy of breast mass with infiltrating ductal ca. Imaging shows nodal involvement with biopsy confirming node with breast ca. Bone mets found on imaging. There was no breast resection.
- cT2 cN1 cM1 Stage Group 4
- pT blank pN blank pM blank Stage Group blank or 99
- cM1 for clinical stage
  - No special rule for cM1, special rule is only for pM1
- Cannot assign pathologic stage, criteria not met

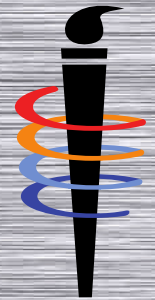


# Registry Data Items - Examples

- Diagnostic workup includes biopsy of bone showing mets from breast ca, nodal involvement on imaging. There was no breast resection.
- cT1 cN1 pM1 Stage Group 4
- pT blank pN blank pM1 Stage Group 4
- pM1 for clinical stage, biopsy was during workup
- pM1 is both clinical and pathologic stage IV according to AJCC rules
  - Case with pM1 may be grouped as clinical and pathologic stage IV regardless of c or p status of T and N
- pT and pN are blank since all cT / cN options not available
  - Will be adjusted in 2017 for 8<sup>th</sup> edition



# Information and Questions on AJCC Staging



# AJCC Web site

- <https://cancerstaging.org>
- Cancer Staging Education **Registrar menu** includes
  - Presentations
    - Self-study or group lecture materials
  - AJCC Curriculum for Registrars
    - 4 free self-study modules of increasing difficulty on staging rules
      - Each modules consists of 7 lessons, including recorded webinar with quizzes

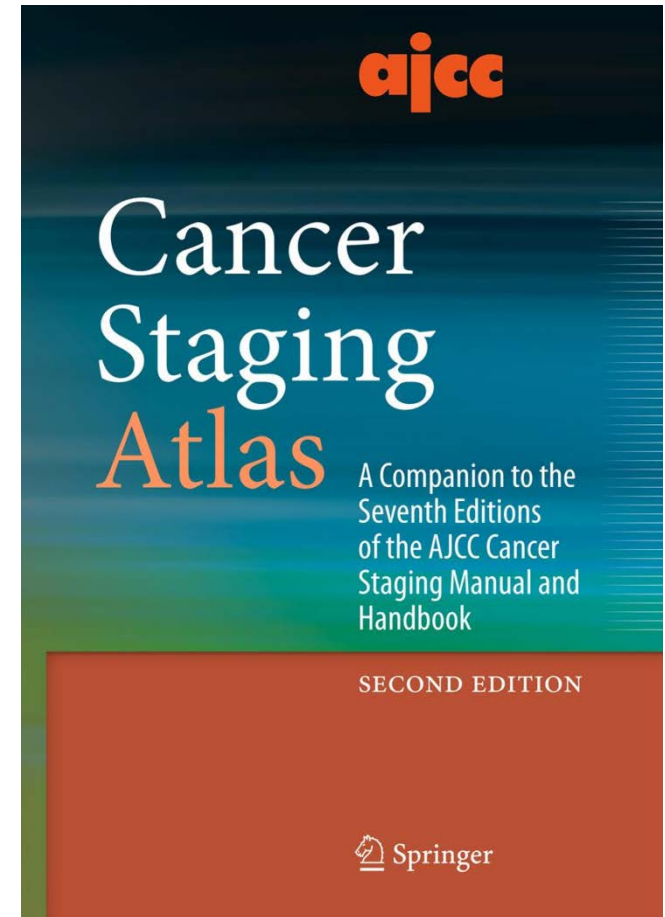
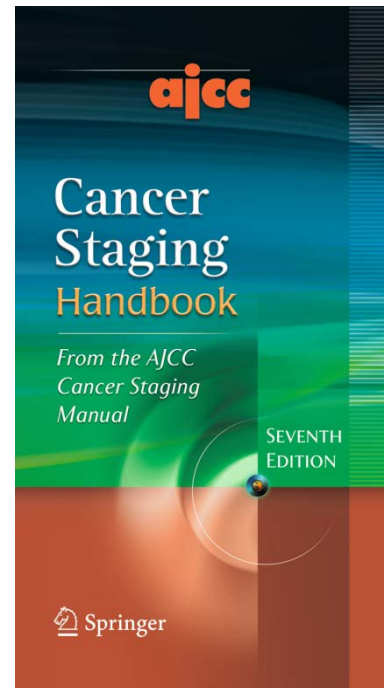
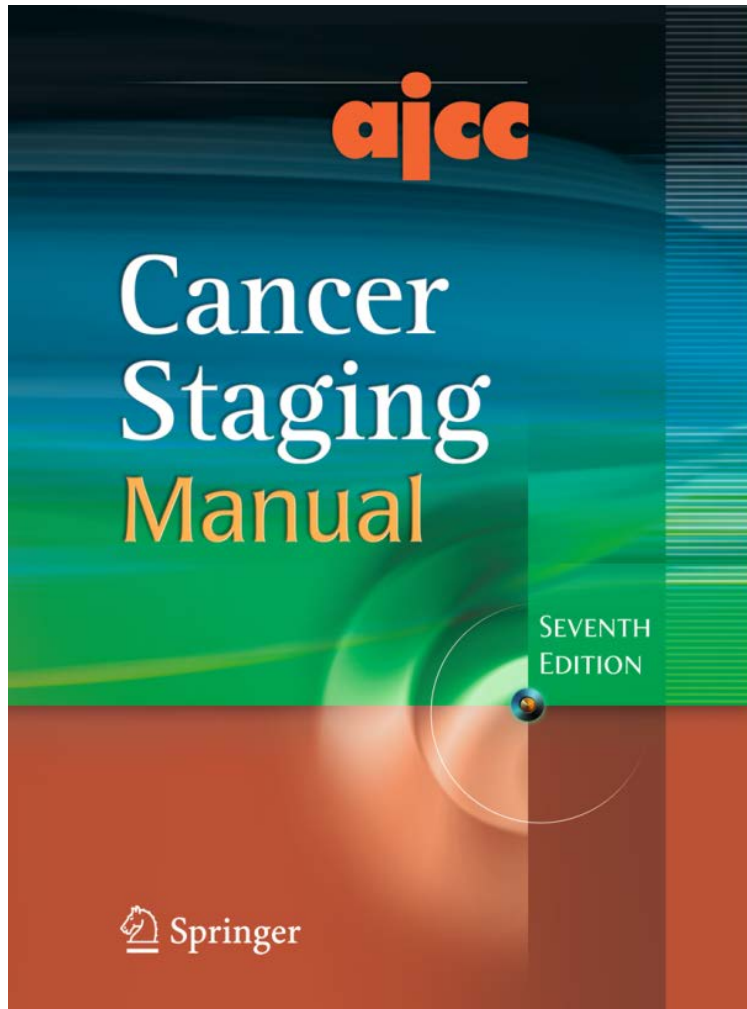


# AJCC Web site

- <https://cancerstaging.org>
- Cancer Staging Education **Physician menu** includes
  - Articles
    - 18 articles on AJCC staging in various medical journals
  - Webinars
    - 14 free webinars on staging rules and some disease sites
- Cancer Staging Education **General menu** includes
  - Staging Moments
    - 15 case-based presentations in cancer conference format to promote accurate staging with answers and rationales



# AJCC Cancer Staging Manual and Atlas



Order at  
<http://cancerstaging.net>

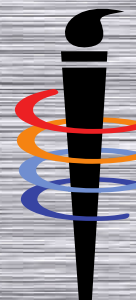


# CAnswer Forum

- Submit questions to AJCC Forum
  - Located within CAnswer Forum
  - Provides information for all
  - Allows tracking for educational purposes
- <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/>



# Summary





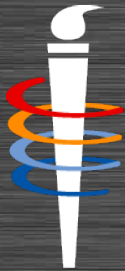
# Summary

- Comprehend changes to T, N, and M category for registry data items
- Discriminate between usage of new category options
  - Assign pTis, cN0, cM0, cM1, and pM1 according to AJCC rules
- Apply critical thinking when assigning AJCC stage
  - Use all AJCC rules
  - Take into account available information
- Identify resources
  - Information and guidance
  - Obtain answers to questions



# Thank you

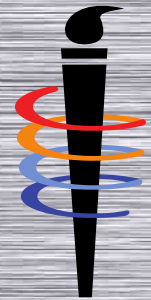
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# AJCC

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[cancerstaging.org](http://cancerstaging.org)