

# QA Matters: Summary Stage 2018 Coding for Testis Primaries

## July 2025

During the 2024 CDC Data Quality Evaluation (DQE), the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) identified a persistent coding issue associated with Summary Stage 2018 coding for testis primaries. The issue was traced to an error in Version 2.0 of the Summary Stage 2018 Manual (Schema ID 000590 – Testis), which resulted in some cases being incorrectly assigned to Summary Stage codes 2 and 4. The error was corrected in Version 2.1 of the manual; however, miscoding continues to occur when outdated copies of Version 2.0 are used.

This QA Matters brief highlights the key changes between Summary Stage 2018 versions 2.0 and 2.1 and reinforces the importance of using current staging resources.

### Key Points

- **NPCR identified a persistent coding issue involving Summary Stage 2018 coding for testis primaries.**
- **The issue originated from an error in Version 2.0 of the Summary Stage 2018 Manual.**
- **The error was corrected in Version 2.1 and remains corrected in current versions of the manual.**
- **Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) alone does not support assignment of Summary Stage code 2 under current Summary Stage guidance.**
- **Registrars should access Summary Stage resources directly from the SEER website to ensure use of the most current guidance.**

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact [Linda.Bloschies@vermont.gov](mailto:Linda.Bloschies@vermont.gov).

### Why This Matters

- Accurate Summary Stage coding is critical for cancer surveillance, reporting, and data analysis.
- Use of outdated staging manuals can result in systematic coding errors across multiple years of data.
- The coding issue affected assignment of Summary Stage codes 1, 2, and 4 for testis primaries.



**HealthVermont.gov**  
**802-863-7200**



- VCR reviewed affected testis cases to identify potential staging discrepancies and communicated any necessary updates directly to reporting facilities.

## Applying Summary Stage 2018 to Testis Primaries

### Understanding the change

An error in the [Summary Stage 2018 Manual, version 2.0](#), specifically in the Testis chapter (Schema ID 000590), resulted in some testis primaries with positive lymphovascular invasion (LVI) being assigned Summary Stage [codes 2](#) (Regional by direct extension only) or [code 4](#) (Regional by both direct extension and regional lymph node(s) involved).

[Version 2.1](#) corrected this issue by clarifying that lymphovascular invasion alone does not support assignment of Summary Stage code 2 for tumors limited to the testis. Below is a comparison of differences between Summary Stage 2018 version 2.0 and 2.1.

#### Code 1: Localized only (localized, NOS)

| Summary Stage 2018 v2.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Summary Stage 2018 v2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WITHOUT lymphovascular invasion or UNKNOWN if lymphovascular invasion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Body of testis</li> <li>○ Rete testis</li> <li>○ Surface implants (surface of tunica vaginalis)</li> <li>○ Tunica albuginea</li> <li>○ Tunica vaginalis involved</li> <li>○ Tunica, NOS</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WITH OR WITHOUT lymphovascular invasion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Body of testis</li> <li>○ Rete testis</li> <li>○ Surface implants (surface of tunica vaginalis)</li> <li>○ Tunica albuginea</li> <li>○ Tunica vaginalis involved</li> <li>○ Tunica, NOS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Confined to testis, NOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WITH or WITHOUT lymphovascular invasion</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

**Source:** SEER Summary Stage 2018 Manual, Testis (Schema ID 000590), Versions 2.0 and 2.1.

#### Code 2: Regional by direct extension only

| Summary Stage 2018 v2.0                                                                                                                                                                                      | Summary Stage 2018 v2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>WITH lymphovascular invasion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Tumor limited to testis (including rete testis invasion)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following sites WITH or WITHOUT lymphovascular invasion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dartos muscle, ipsilateral</li> <li>○ Epididymis</li> <li>○ Hilar soft tissue</li> <li>○ Mediastinum (of testis)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

| Summary Stage 2018 v2.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Summary Stage 2018 v2.1                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Continued:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following sites <i>WITH</i> or <i>WITHOUT</i> lymphovascular invasion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dartos muscle, ipsilateral</li> <li>Epididymis</li> <li>Hilar soft tissue</li> <li>Mediastinum (of testis)</li> <li>Scrotum, ipsilateral</li> <li>Spermatic cord, ipsilateral</li> <li>Vas deferens</li> <li>Visceral mesothelial layer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><i>Continued:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrotum, ipsilateral</li> <li>Spermatic cord, ipsilateral</li> <li>Vas deferens</li> <li>Visceral mesothelial layer</li> </ul> |

**Source:** SEER Summary Stage 2018 Manual, Testis (Schema ID 000590), Versions 2.0 and 2.1.

## VCR Review Testis Primaries

Based on Summary Stage 2018 Manual Version 3.2, VCR reviewed testis cases coded as Regional (2 or 4) with positive lymphovascular invasion to determine whether the correct stage should be Localized (1), Regional (2), or Regional lymph node involvement only (3). When discrepancies were identified, updates to Summary Stage or lymphovascular invasion coding were communicated directly to the relevant registrars.

## Recommendations for Registrars

- Verify that local staging references are current and [bookmark the SEER webpage](#) to access the manual online whenever possible. Avoid relying on locally saved copies of older manual versions.
- Review testis primaries carefully when lymphovascular invasion is documented and confirm that staging assignments are supported by current Summary Stage guidance.
- Verify that positive lymphovascular invasion alone is not used to assign Summary Stage code 2 for tumors limited to the testis.

## References

[Summary Stage 2018 Manual \(current and historical versions\).](#)

## Questions?

If you have questions regarding this topic, need assistance interpreting coding guidance, or have other cancer registry-related questions, please contact the Vermont Cancer Registry at [AHS.VDHHSICancerRegistry@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHHSICancerRegistry@vermont.gov).