QA Matters: Solid Tumor Rules 2026.1 Update

October 2026

The Solid Tumor Rules were developed to promote consistent and standardized coding by cancer registrars. Solid Tumor Rules 2026.1 was released in July 2026 as a mid-year update. The changes were made to align with Cancer PathCHART, a North American initiative to update cancer surveillance standards related to tumor site, histology, behavior code combinations, and associated terminology. Cancer PathCHART is a collaboration between national standard setters aimed at aligning standards for public health cancer data with medical practice.

The most recent version of the Solid Tumor Rules should be used as soon as it is released. The current version is hosted on the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) website.

Key Points

- **Solid Tumor Rules 2026.1 is a mid-year update released in July 2026.**
- **The update includes changes and clarifications to histology tables, terminology, reportability, and coding guidance.**
- **Registrars should use the current online version of the Solid Tumor Rules to ensure they are working from the most recent guidance.**
- **Breast Rule M10 was removed with the original 2026 Solid Tumor Rules update. This was not a 2026.1 change.**

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact Linda.Bloschies@vermont.gov.

Why This Matters

The Solid Tumor Rules determine the number of primaries to abstract and the histology to code. Changes to the rules, histology tables, terminology, and reportability guidance can affect how cases are coded. Using the current online rules helps ensure consistent coding and reduces the risk of applying outdated guidance.

2026.1 Changes

The 2026.1 update includes the following changes and clarifications:

- Histologies were added or removed from histology tables.
- Behavior codes were added or removed.
- Preferred and alternate terms were added, removed, or updated.
- Inaccurate notes were removed.
- Coding guidance was clarified for lung adenocarcinoma with mixed subtypes (8255/3).
- Coding guidance for prostate ductal adenocarcinoma was updated.
- Synonyms were added for gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST).
- Reportability guidance for paraganglioma was updated.

Also Important: Breast Rule M10 was removed with the original 2026 Solid Tumor Rules update. Although this was not a 2026.1 change, registrars should be aware of its impact on determining multiple primaries.

Recommendations for Registrars

- Use the online Solid Tumor Rules 2026.1 for the most current coding guidance.
- Review the SEER revision history for complete details of the 2026.1 changes, organized by manual section.
- Use current online reference materials rather than relying on saved copies that may become outdated.

References

SEER Solid Tumor Rules
SEER Solid Tumor Rules Revision History
NAACCR webinar: *V26 Updates: Solid Tumor Rules, SSDIs, Cancer PathCHART and More!* — Solid Tumor Rules 2026.1 update presented by Suzanne Adams, BS, ODS-C. Updates and Implementation

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.