

**DIAGNOSTIC CONFIRMATION**

**Revised**

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
	490	1	SEER/CoC	562-562

**Description**

Code for the best method of diagnostic confirmation of the cancer being reported at any time in the patient's history.

**Rationale**

Diagnostic confirmation is useful to calculate rates based on microscopically confirmed cancers. Full incidence calculations must also include tumors that are only confirmed clinically. The percentage of tumors that are clinically diagnosed only is an indication of whether case finding is including sources outside of pathology reports.

**Codes**

- 1 Positive histology
- 2 Positive cytology, no positive histology
- 3 Positive histology PLUS –  
positive immunophenotyping AND/OR positive genetic studies  
(Used only for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms 95903-99923)
- 4 Positive microscopic confirmation, method not specified
- 5 Positive laboratory test/marker study
- 6 Direct visualization without microscopic confirmation
- 7 Radiography and other imaging techniques without microscopic confirmation
- 8 Clinical diagnosis only (other than 5, 6, or 7)
- 9 Unknown whether or not microscopically confirmed

*Note:* Code 3 (used only for hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms 95903-99923) was adopted for use effective with 2010 diagnoses.

**DIAGNOSTIC PROC 73-87**

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
Diagnostic Procedures (1973-87 SEER)	2200	2	SEER	1949-1950

**Description**

Data item required by SEER for tumors of certain sites for the years 1973-87. This item is no longer collected. See Appendix D of the *SEER Program Code Manual* for details.