



American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC): The Cancer Staging Update Process and New Content Format

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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government

- The AJCC is the standard setter for cancer staging
- The Cancer Staging Manual has been re-branded as the “Cancer Staging System” and will be released on a regular basis
- Unlike previous edition of the Cancer Staging Manual, the Cancer Staging System has gone digital
- New and updated Disease Site protocols will be more streamlined, user friendly and with significant stakeholder input and involvement
- The Eighth Edition of the Cancer Staging Manual will continue to be used for staging and cancer surveillance until new disease sites are available with Version 9

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- Anatomic staging (TNM staging) is at the core of cancer staging
- Rapid advancements in cancer care provide significant opportunity to better define prognosis and treatment at the individual level (personalized medicine)
- AJCC's role is crucial to cancer care, surveillance, research and patient advocacy
- AJCC publications and other offerings serve as the authoritative guide for cancer staging and serve thousands of medical professionals across the entire continuum of cancer care

The Cancer Staging Manual has been re-branded as the “Cancer Staging System” and will be released on an annual basis

- Previous editions released every 5-7 years as ‘Cancer Staging Manuals’ with all disease sites updated at one time
- Cancer Staging System Version 9 will replace the 8th Edition
- Disease sites will be released on an individual basis based on the needs of the cancer care community
- The goal is to ensure that cancer staging is current, evidence-based and meets the needs of the patient care and surveillance communities
- First disease site released in October 2020 (Cancer Staging System for the Cervix Uteri)
- Several other disease sites in the process of revision

Unlike previous edition of the Cancer Staging Manual, the Cancer Staging System has gone digital

- Cervix Uteri disease site released as e-book with on-demand paperback copy available for purchase
- Library services and content aggregators will be adding Version 9 to existing AJCC content
- Application Program Interfaces (API) are available for both the clinical and registry environments to allow for rapid integration of updated staging information into EHR and registry databases
- Additional digital tools: The AJCC has established an Implementation Committee to facilitate stakeholder engagement and input on additional digital tools

New and updated Disease Site protocols will be more streamlined, user friendly and with significant stakeholder input/involvement

- Editorial Board structure revamped and revised to allow for extensive stakeholder involvement and input
- More stringent levels of evidence implemented for changes to staging
- Terminology harmonized with other standard setting and stakeholder organizations to facilitate standardization across cancer care continuum
- Disease site protocols include:
 - Easy-to-use clinical and pathologic TNM staging tables tailored for use by a broad setting of stakeholder communities
 - Risk assessment tools, prognostic factors, registry collection variables and others

The 8th Edition of the Cancer Staging Manual will continue to be used for staging and cancer surveillance until new disease sites are available with Version 9

- As Disease Sites are individually released over the next several years, they will replace the corresponding chapters in the 8th Edition
- Until the release of all Disease Sites in Version 9 is complete, the relevant chapters in the 8th Edition will continue to be used for clinical care and by the surveillance community
- The AJCC will work with stakeholders to widely communicate this with the cancer care community

- The Cancer Staging Manual re-branded as the “Cancer Staging System”
- Individual Disease Site Protocols (previously referred to as chapters) are being released on a regular basis
- Cervix Uteri available with other disease sites in the queue for release
- The Cancer Staging System has several digital products including e-book and APIs with more products to follow
- New and updated Disease Site protocols will be more streamlined, user friendly and with significant stakeholder input and involvement
- The Eighth Edition of the Cancer Staging Manual will continue to be used until new disease sites are available with Version 9