

# Cancer Surgery Standards Program (CSSP) Case Identification Guidelines

## CoC Standard 5.7: Total Mesorectal Excision



*Note: Standards 5.3–5.8 do not require an internal audit to be compliant with the standard. However, this is recommended to identify any gaps in compliance.*

Rationale: These guidelines can help CoC-accredited programs identify and/or audit their cases as they begin to track compliance with the surgical standards.

### **Standard 5.7 Total Mesorectal Excision**

Standard 5.7 applies to surgical cases starting January 1, 2021. Registrars can use the surgery codes in STORE as an efficient way to identify cases for the surgical standards, along with other items listed under the general guidelines below.

#### *Scope of Standard*

This standard applies to all radical, anatomic operations for rectal adenocarcinoma performed with curative intent and excludes in-situ lesions and primary resection specimens with no residual cancer (e.g., following neoadjuvant therapy). *Note: This standard also excludes in situ lesions.*

#### *Measure of Compliance*

Each calendar year, the cancer program fulfills the compliance criteria:

1. Total mesorectal excision is performed for patients undergoing radical surgical resections of mid and low rectal cancers, resulting in complete or near-complete TME.
2. Pathology reports for resections of rectal adenocarcinoma document the quality of TME resection (complete, near complete, or incomplete) in synoptic format.

### **General Guidelines and Source Documents:**

Programs can audit for compliance or prepare for the site visit using the following steps:

- ✓ Using the Cancer Registry database - Pull cases within the scope of the standard with the following criteria:
  - Patient identifiers (MRN, date of procedure, class of case)
  - Surgeon identifiers (NPI, physician code, etc.)
  - Year surgery performed
  - Surgery performed at reporting facility
  - Primary site (Rectum, C209), histology and exclusions per the Standard (reference *Scope of Standard* above)
  - Surgical codes A300 – A800 from STORE.
    - It is recommended code 90 also be included to check for eligible cases.
- ✓ Using the EMR - Review Operative Report to determine the following:
  - Curative or palliative intent
  - Rectal tumor location (mid to low)
  - Type of surgical resection
- ✓ Using the EMR - Review Pathology Report for each case to confirm:
  - CAP elements in synoptic format
  - Quality of resection: complete, near complete, or incomplete

### **Site Visits**

2022 site reviews will evaluate charts from 2021 to determine whether 70% of pathology reports within the scope of this standard meet the requirements for Standard 5.7. The compliance rate will increase to 80% beginning with 2023 site visits (which will review 2021 and 2022 pathology reports). Site reviewers will review 7 charts for this standard.