

Coding Guidelines
PROSTATE GLAND
C619

Grade

Note: These guidelines pertain to the data item Grade. Refer to the [Collaborative Stage Data Collection Manual](#) for instructions on coding site-specific factors for prostate cases.

Priority Rules for Grading Prostate Cancer

Code the tumor grade using the following priority order

1. Gleason score (Use the table to convert Gleason score to the appropriate code)
2. Terminology
Differentiation (well differentiated, moderately differentiated, etc)
3. Histologic grade
Grade i, grade ii, grade iii, grade iv
4. Nuclear grade only

Gleason Pattern

Prostate cancers are commonly graded using Gleason score or pattern. Gleason grading is based on a 5-component system, based on 5 histologic patterns. The pathologist will evaluate the primary pattern (most predominant) and secondary patterns (second most predominant) for the tumor.

Example: A Gleason pattern of 2 + 4 means that the primary pattern is 2 and the secondary pattern is 4.

Gleason Score

The primary and secondary patterns are added together to create a score. Primary pattern is doubled when there is no secondary pattern. Tertiary pattern is not used to determine Gleason score.

Example: If the patterns are 2 + 4, the score is 6.

If the pathology report contains only one number, and that number is less than or equal to 5, it is a pattern.

If the pathology report contains only one number, and that number is greater than 5, it is a score.

If the pathology report specifies a specific number out of a total of 10, the first number given is the score.

Example 1: The pathology report says “Gleason 3/10”. The Gleason’s score would be 3.

Example 2: The pathology report states 7(3 + 4). Gleason score is 7. Primary pattern is 3 and secondary pattern is 4.

If there are **two numbers other than 10**, assume they refer to two patterns. The first number is the primary pattern and the second is the secondary pattern.

Example: If the pathology report says “Gleason 3 + 5,” the Gleason score would be 8.

Use the following table to convert Gleason pattern or score into SEER code.

SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2012

Gleason Conversion Table

Gleason Score	Gleason Pattern	Histologic Grade	Terminology	SEER Code
2, 3, 4	1, 2	I	Well differentiated	1
5, 6	3	II	Moderately differentiated	2
7, 8, 9, 10	4, 5	III	Poorly differentiated	3

Note: Code 7 was moved from Moderately differentiated to Poorly differentiated, effective with cases diagnosed on or after 01/01/2003.