

User Guide for NCI's Online Cancer PathCHART Search Tool (CPC*Search)

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What is CPC*Search?

[CPC*Search](#) is an interactive webtool that allows users to search the [2024 Cancer PathCHART ICD-O-3 Site Morphology Validation List \(CPC*SMVL\)](#) validity standards by tumor site, histology, and behavior terms, and associated codes.

Search results include the expert pathologist-assigned CPC validity status of tumor morphology (histology and behavior) by site and organ system, which indicates if specific tumor site-morphology combinations are biologically valid, impossible, or unlikely.

Validity Status	Site-Type Edit Errors	Coding in Cancer Registry Database
Valid	Will not generate edit errors	Can be coded
Impossible	Will generate an edit error	Cannot be coded
Unlikely*	Will generate an edit error	Requires manual override or correction to site and/or morphology to be coded

For more information, visit the [CPC*Search home page](#) and the [CPC*Search Information page](#).

Search Page

Home / Registry Options / Cancer PathCHART / CPC*Search / Search

CPC*Search

Find the combinations of tumor site, histology, and behavior terms and associated cancer registration codes you need in the Cancer PathCHART search tool (CPC*Search).

CPC*Search provides a convenient and an efficient tool for searching tumor site, histology, and behavior combination standards established by the Cancer Pathology Coding History And Registration Terminology (Cancer PathCHART) collaborative initiative. Users can search tumor site-morphology (histology and behavior) combinations by tumor site or International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition (ICD-O-3) topography code, histology term or ICD-O-3.2 code, behavior, and/or [validity standard](#) for cancer registration.

To learn more about the Cancer PathCHART initiative and tumor site-morphology combination validity standards, visit the [Cancer PathCHART Home Page](#).

7 CPC*Search is intended only to explore tumor site and morphology combinations and to validate tumor site and morphology edits for cancer registration. It is not intended to be used to assign codes for tumor site, histology, and behavior. The tumor site-morphology combination validity standards are for cases diagnosed January 1, 2024 and forward. Any changes to such coding standards for 2024 do not require registrars to recode cases diagnosed prior to implementation of 2024 CPC validity standards.

Registrars may find the search to be more effective if site and histology codes are determined prior to using CPC*Search. If a site-morphology combination has a CPC*Search validity status of "unlikely" or "impossible", registrars should confirm that the correct primary site and histology codes were entered.

Search — [User Guide](#) [Search Tool Information](#)

Provide both Primary Site (term or code) and Histology (term or code):

Choose either [Term](#) or [Code](#)

Primary Site

ICD-O-3 Topography Code

Ex. C34.9

AND

Choose either [Term](#) or [Code](#)

Histology Term

ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code

Ex. 8000

Behavior

☒ Benign (/0)

☒ Uncertain/Borderline (/1)

☒ In Situ (/2)

☒ Malignant (/3)

☐ Select All

CPC Validity Status

☒ Valid

☒ Unlikely

☒ Impossible

☐ Select All

[Search Database](#) [Clear Search](#)

Figure 1 – Cancer PathCHART Search (CPC*Search) search screen

When **CPC*Search** opens, the user will see the search criteria for primary site and histology fields are blank. By default, the behavior and CPC Validity Status check boxes are set to all.

- 1) The information box at the top indicates an important note around the intended use for CPC*Search.
- 2) The **CPC Standards** link to the Cancer PathCHART site morphology validation status lists (CPC SMVL).
- 3) The **User Guide** link opens to the most recent PDF of this guide.
- 4) The **Search Tool Information** link opens to the CPC*Search Information page with Frequently Asked Questions.
- 5) The green **Search CPC Standards** button is located on the bottom left of the search page. Search criteria must be entered to query the standards. Click on the button to run the search. (See the section **Searching the CPC Standards** for more information.)
- 6) **CPC*Search Field Criteria**

Under the search section, users will see four search variables.

- **Primary site/Topography Code**
- **Histology Term/Histology Code**
- **Behavior**
- **CPC Validity Status**

Primary Site/Topography Code

- Selecting the “Choose either Term or Code” hyperlinked text on the left above the primary site section will open an ICD-O-3 Topography Code list that users can reference when searching primary site term or Topography Code. Users can copy/paste the selection into the Primary Site or ICD-O-3 Topography Code boxes.
- Primary Site: Text description or keyword of primary site (For example: anterior floor of mouth)
- ICD-O-3 Topography Code: enter the applicable 4-digit ICD-O-3 code (For example: C04.0)

Histology Term/Histology Code

- Histology term: Text description or keyword of histologic term
- ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code: Enter the applicable 4-digit ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code

Behavior

- Use the check boxes to select the behavior(s) included in the search

CPC Validity Status

- Use the check boxes to select the validity status type(s) included in the search. See table below.

Validity Status	Site-Type Edit Errors	Coding in Cancer Registry Database
Valid	Will not generate edit errors	Can be coded
Impossible	Will generate an edit error	Cannot be coded
Unlikely*	Will generate an edit error	Requires manual override or correction to site and/or morphology to be coded

- 7) The **Clear Search** button will remove any search field entries and return the criteria back to the default setting.

How to Search the Cancer PathCHART Standards

The **CPC*Search tool** search function follows these rules and guidelines.

- a) You must enter criteria for EITHER a primary site term or topography code **and** EITHER a histology term or code in order to perform a search. Leaving all fields blank will result in an error:

Provide both Primary Site (term or code) and Histology (term or code):

Choose either Term or Code	Choose either Term or Code
Primary Site ▪ Must input either a Primary Site or ICD-O-3 Topography Code.	Histology Term ▪ Must input either a Histology Term or ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code.
ICD-O-3 Topography Code Ex. C34.9 ▪ Must input either a Primary Site or ICD-O-3 Topography Code.	ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code Ex. 8000 ▪ Must input either a Histology Term or ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code.

AND

- b) Search terms are **not** case-sensitive, so you can enter them in any case.
- c) Use the **most specific** terms available. The more specific you are, the more accurate your search results will be.
- d) You can enter an ICD-O-3 Topography Code with or without the decimal (eg. C34.9 and C349 are both acceptable).
- e) You can enter an ICD-O-3 Topography Code without the alpha character “C” (eg. 34.9).
- f) ICD-O-3 Topography Code must contain at least one numerical digit or you will receive an error

ICD-O-3 Topography Code

! Please match the requested format.

- g) ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code must be 4 digits or you will receive an error

ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code

814 

▪ Must be 4 digits (e.g., 8142) ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code

 Please match the requested format.

- h) If you de-select all behavior and/or CPC validity status boxes for your search, it will produce the same results as if you checked “Select ALL” results.

Search Results Section

Once the search criteria are entered and the user clicks the **Search CPC Standards** button, a table of results will appear below:

Provide both Primary Site (term or code) and Histology (term or code):

Choose either [Term or Code](#)

Primary Site

 ICD-O-3 Topography Code

AND

Choose either Term or Code

Histology Term

 ICD-O-3.2 Histology Code

Behavior

☐ Benign (/0)
☐ Uncertain/Borderline (/1)
☐ In Situ (/2)
☒ Malignant (/3)
☐ Select All

CPC Validity Status

☒ Valid
☐ Unlikely
☐ Impossible
☐ Select All

Primary Site	ICD-O-3 Site Code	ICD-O-3.2 Morphology Code	ICD-O-3.2 Preferred Term	WHO Term(s)	CPC Validity Status
Cecum	C18.0	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Appendix	C18.1	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Ascending colon	C18.2	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Hepatic flexure of colon	C18.3	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Transverse colon	C18.4	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Splenic flexure of colon	C18.5	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Descending colon	C18.6	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Sigmoid colon	C18.7	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Overlapping lesion of colon	C18.8	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid
Colon, NOS	C18.9	8140/3	Adenocarcinoma, NOS		Valid

- Initial results appear in order of morphology code.
- Using the exact topography code in the search criteria will narrow the results.
- You can **sort results** by the different columns using the up or down arrow on the right-hand side of each column heading.
- If a term is not found in the primary site or histology term fields in the search box, please note that only the preferred terms are included in the search tool. Synonyms and related terms are not included. For example, if a registrar enters primary site of “lingula” in term for primary site, a message indicating “No matching records found” would result. The registrar should use the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition (ICD-O-3) manual to identify the preferred term “upper lobe lung” as it is part of the upper lobe of the left lung or use the topography code “C34.1” to perform the search. The same logic would apply to a histology term that is not found in the search field.
- Search results will include a World Health Organization (WHO) term only if the site-histology combination was reviewed for the updated WHO standards released in 2024.

- (f) If no search results are generated, please check spelling of all terms, and confirm codes are entered correctly and completely. Refrain from using abbreviations, and if a hyphen is sometimes used in the histology term, try spelling it both with and without the hyphen (i.e. nonmucinous/non-mucinous).