COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Topic: CAP eCC Release Notes | June 2017 AJCC 8th Edition Update Release

From: CAP Structured Data Team

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Introduction:

The June 2017 CAP electronic Cancer Checklist (eCC) release incorporates updates from the latest CAP Cancer Protocols (CCPs), which include the new AJCC 8th Edition Cancer Staging Manual[1] requirements. 53 eCC resection templates are included in this release, with over 7300 changes including updates to stage classification, tumor extension, margins, lymph nodes, and more. Pathologists are expected to use the new AJCC 8th Edition cancer staging guidelines beginning January 1, 2018.

Please refer to **CAP eCC Table of Changes** and **CAP eCC Cancer Protocol and XDT Versions** files included with the release documentation for the full list of templates in this release, as well as additional information about these major changes and version identifiers.

The CAP Cancer Protocols are available on the CAP website at www.cap.org/cancerprotocols.

1. New and Retired eCC templates

In alignment with AJCC 8th Edition, a few templates have been combined, split, or retired altogether.

Retired eCC Templates & Protocols	New eCC Templates & Protocols
Ovary and Fallopian Tube	Ovary, Fallopian Tube, Peritoneum
Peritoneum	
Small Intestine NET	Duodenum Ampulla NET
	Jejunum Ileum NET
Squamous Cell Carcinoma	No replacement (no AJCC 8th Edition chapters)
Heart	

2. eCC Updates for Biopsies, TURP, and TURBT

The CAP Cancer Protocol documents include changes to case summaries for resection, biopsy, and other procedures. The CAP Structured Data Team is concurrently releasing all resection templates, which are required for accreditation purposes. The corresponding eCC updates for non-resection templates will be released later this year as they are completed.

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[1] Used with permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original and primary source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2016) published by Springer Science+Business Media.

Accreditation Note: Laboratories will have the customary eight-month window to transition to the latest CAP Cancer Protocol standards. Use of the biopsy, TURP, and TURBT templates is NOT required for accreditation purposes, for either the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program or the American College of Surgeons - Commission on Cancer. Therefore, the delayed release of the corresponding updated eCC templates will have no effect on cancer or laboratory accreditation for your institution.

3. **Removal of Grossing Elements**

To avoid duplication in the report, several data elements describing the gross examination have been removed from the protocols and eCCs. These include elements like Specimen Size, Specimen Weight, Specimen Length, and information about fixation, which are routinely reported in the grossing section of the report. Some elements critical to identification of the specimen (e.g., laterality) or information important to prognosis (e.g., specimen integrity in the gynecologic templates) have been retained.

4. **Units of Measurement (UOM) Clarification**

In August 2016, pathologists using the CAP eCC and Cancer Protocols reported a potential source of error when entering numerical values and reporting specific units of measurement (UOM) in their surgical pathology reports.

To help decrease the risk of staging errors due to incorrect usage of units, the CAP has implemented the following approach:

1. UOM will remain standardized to the AJCC 8th Edition Cancer Staging Manual.

2. The terms "(cm)" and "(mm)" have been updated to read "in Centimeters (cm)" and "in Millimeters (mm)" in questions and answers where pathologists enter measurement values.

For further details, please refer to the **Units of Measurement in the CAP eCC and CAP Cancer Protocols** in the release Documentation folder.

5. **Template Standardization & Report Text**

In order to better accommodate pathologist workflow, the CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting (PERT) Committee has worked to improve template consistency and functionality. All eCC templates have been updated to include standard ordering of the Headers and Questions, in addition to more standardized lymph node modeling. The newest versions of the templates include guidance for vendors to optimize the synoptic report output, specifically so that instructional items in the data entry form do not appear in the report.

6. **Lymph Node Ordering Clarification**

You may notice a change in the ordering of the Lymph Node section when completing your reports. Previously, the "Number of Lymph Nodes Examined" was reported first, followed by the "Number of Lymph Nodes Involved". The ordering of these elements in the protocols and eCCs has been updated as follows:

Top: Number of Lymph Nodes **Involved**

Bottom: Number of Lymph Nodes **Examined**

Please pay close attention to the order when filling out data-entry forms and case summaries, and double check your reports for correctness.

7.   Enhanced eCC XML

eCC enhanced XML is now the standard format for eCC releases. Legacy eCC XML has been discontinued. The eCC enhanced XML is backward-compatible with the legacy eCC format, but includes frequently-requested improvements. These improvements are designed to augment the usability of the eCC and ease implementation procedures. The enhanced XML changes are compatible with the new Structured Data Capture (SDC) XML format that is planned for initial release later this year.

Any user or vendor with questions or issues associated with the enhanced eCC format should contact the CAP Structured Data Team at capecc@cap.org.

For details of the eCC enhanced XML features, please refer to the **CAP eCC Enhanced XML Summary** in the Documentation folder for this release.

8.   Important Note

In some cases, eCC templates have content that differs from the content in the latest CAP Cancer Protocols, due to changes required for computerization. These edits have been approved by the CAP committees supervising maintenance and development of the CAP eCC and Cancer Protocols.

9.   Additional Information

The CAP Structured Data Team is happy to provide assistance and answer any questions concerning the eCC. As always, the CAP requests your feedback regarding the changes in this release. Please address your detailed comments to capecc@cap.org or call (847) 832-7700 to contact a member of the team.