



# AJCC

## 2021 UPDATES



# Moving from Edition to Version

**AJCC is changing how it updates and releases content.**

- Shifting from Cancer Staging Manual to Cancer Staging System
  - Moving from Editions to Versions
    - Better aligns with
      - Software development and
      - Number of users
        - Users want AJCC content in their everyday software products
  - Medicine changing more rapidly than new book every 7 years
    - Critical to provide new staging content to improve patient care



# Annual Updates

- **Cervix Uteri first cancer updated as version**
  - Effective with cancers diagnosed **January 1, 2021**
  - Replaces 8th edition cervix content from Staging Manual
- **Version 9 Cervix Uteri Release**
  - Electronic tables distributed to licensed software developers
  - Electronic version of new content includes tables, notes, illustrations
    - Available for purchase soon by physicians, registrars and other users
    - Will be standalone product, final details coming by Fall 2020
- Other disease sites updated to Version 9 in coming years



# Neoadjuvant Treatment Post-Therapy Clinical (yc)



# Post-Therapy Clinical Stage (yc)

## CoC is collecting yc staging starting in 2021

Neoadjuvant Treatment is given as a first step to shrink a tumor before the main treatment, which is usually surgery, is given. Examples of neoadjuvant therapy include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hormone therapy.

There are 3 Types of Neoadjuvant Therapy Patients:

- Good Response: Surgical resection completed (yp Staging)
- No Response: Surgery canceled (yc Staging)
- Excellent Response: No surgery is needed (yc Staging)



## The importance of (yc):

- Shows that surgery was part of the initial treatment
- It shows if the treatment plan was changed due to the patient's response to neoadjuvant therapy
- T, N, M shows the level of response compared to the clinical stage
  - No response (surgery canceled)
  - Excellent response (no surgery needed)
- Distinguished between when no surgery was planned and when the surgery being cancelled due to response to treatment.





▶ **Missing piece of neoadjuvant with surgery canceled**

- ▶ Skewed picture of patient outcomes
- ▶ Could lead to erroneous conclusions about neoadjuvant success
- ▶ Affects many patient populations

▶ **Critical to capture data on missing piece**

- ▶ Cannot keep telling just part of the story
- ▶ Complete story must be told to evaluate **all** treatment results

▶ Treatment completeness **quality** issue



# AJCC Stages

- Clinical
- Pathological
- Post-Therapy Clinical (yc)
- Post-Therapy Pathological (yp)

Treatment Scenario	AJCC Stage			
	Clinical	Pathological	Post-Therapy Clinical (yc)	Post-Therapy Pathological (yp)
No treatment planned	X			
Surgery or Surgery, followed by adjuvant treatment	X	X		
Neoadjuvant treatment, followed by surgery	X			X
Neoadjuvant treatment, surgery canceled (due to poor or excellent response)	X		X	
Systemic and/or Radiation only	X			



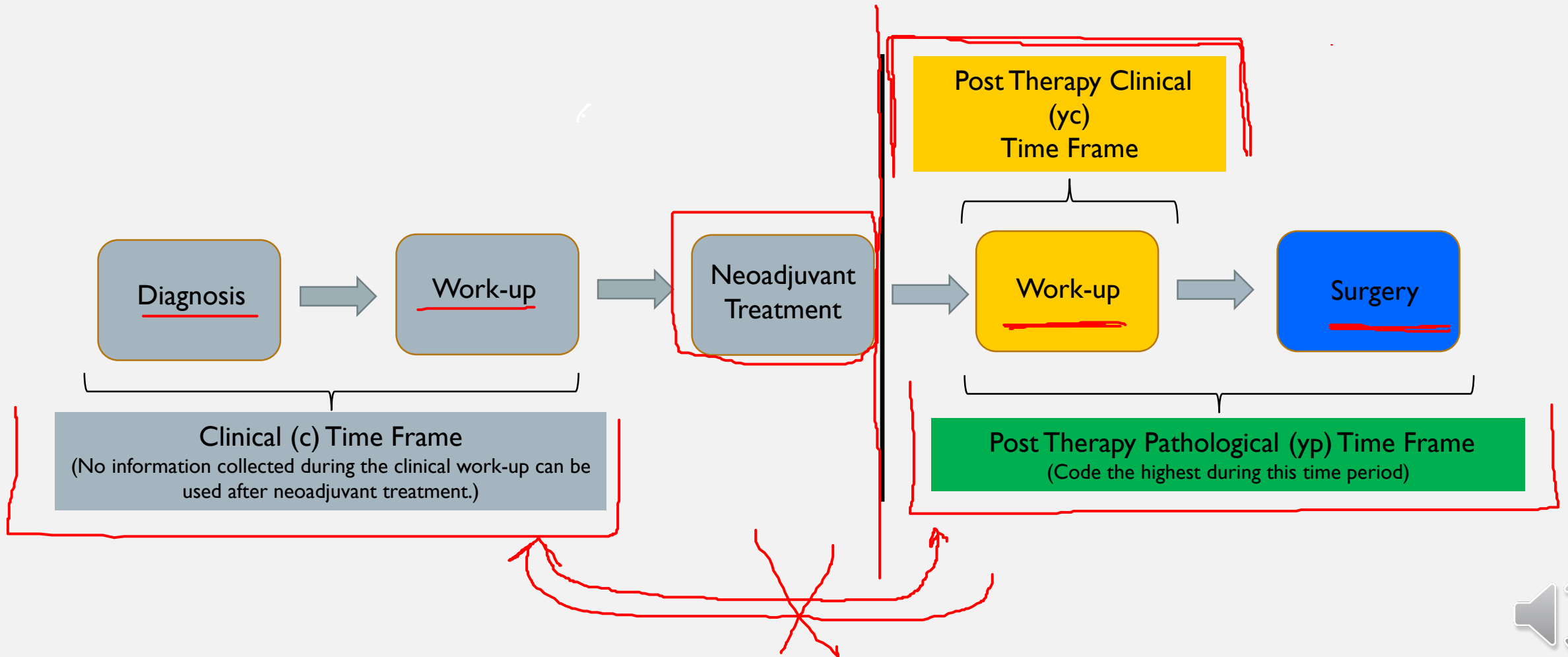


## Important:

- A registrar will never assign more than 2 AJCC stage classifications for a case.
- Only record (yc) when (yp) cannot be assigned (surgery canceled).
  - Poor response
  - Excellent response
- Evaluations for (yc):
  - Evaluation by physical exam
  - imaging
  - biopsy
  - any diagnostic procedures
- At this time, there is no (yc) stage group



# Post Therapy Clinical (yc) vs Post Therapy Pathological (yp)



# Neoadjuvant Treatment

- Neoadjuvant therapy for posttherapy yc and yp staging should meet national treatment guidelines
- Systemic therapy (chemo/hormone/immunotherapy) must
  - Be provided by dosage and time frame
  - Meeting standard national treatment guidelines
  - To be considered course of treatment
- Drug guidelines have been proven to have **treatment** effect on patients when followed



- Providing drug in any dosage for any length of time does **not** make it treatment
  - Short course of tamoxifen **not** treatment
    - Given to see if cells react to drug as surrogate of tumor response
    - Predicts if given for standard 5-10 years as treatment after surgery
- Drugs given for unconventional reasons prior to surgery
  - Physician experts and national treatment guidelines make it clear
  - These drugs **not** given to treat cancer and
  - Do **not** provide treatment to patient





## Treatment During the Pandemic

- Do not confuse bridge therapy cases with true neoadjuvant
- Few months is **not** neoadjuvant
- In cases where neoadjuvant therapy was part of the original treatment plan:
  - Would finish entire course systemic therapy
  - Would not take to surgery early, as soon as pandemic allowed
- If bridge therapy is administered
  - AJCC: stage as pathological (p)
  - This is still to be recorded in your Treatment Data Items



# Lack of Response is Not Progression

- ▶ **No response to neoadjuvant is *not* considered progression**
- ▶ If patient does *not* respond to neoadjuvant therapy
  - ▶ Tumor cells continue to divide and grow
  - ▶ As they had been since day cancer cells started
  - ▶ Causes tumor to expand and invade additional tissue and nodes
- ▶ **Assign posttherapy stage indicating further involvement**
  - ▶ cT3, now posttherapy pathological ypT4
  - ▶ cN0, now posttherapy pathological ypN2



# Take home point

- ▶ The AJCC is changing from Chapters to Versions
- ▶ Cervix will be the first version introduced, with other sites to follow
- ▶ Post Therapy Clinical has been introduced to help complete the patient's story
- ▶ You will never compete more than 2 AJCC stages per case
- ▶ To be considered Neoadjuvant, it must follow the AJCC and NCCN guidelines
- ▶ Bridge therapy done during the pandemic is not neoadjuvant therapy



# Upcoming Trainings

- ▶ The AJCC is planning two upcoming trainings
  - ▶ The Dates are to be determined
    - ▶ Late 2020 (November/December)
    - ▶ Early 2021 (February)





- ▶ <https://cancerstaging.org>
  
- ▶ General information
  - ▶ Education
  - ▶ Articles
  - ▶ Updates
  
- ▶ For Registrars
  - ▶ Webinars with free CE hrs
  - ▶ Critical Clarifications
  - ▶ Staging Moments
  
  - ▶ Submit Questions to:
    - ▶ <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/>



# Questions?

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