

**Coding Guidelines****BONES, JOINTS, AND ARTICULAR CARTILAGE C400–C419  
PERIPHERAL NERVES AND AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM C470–C479  
CONNECTIVE, SUBCUTANEOUS, AND OTHER SOFT TISSUES C490–C499**

(Except for M9750, 9760-9764, 9800-9820, 9826, 9831-9920, 9931-9992)

**Laterality**

Laterality is required for sites C400-C403, C413-C414, C471-C472, and C491-C492.

**Three-Grade System (Nuclear 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.

Soft tissue sarcomas are evaluated using a three-grade system. The patterns of cell growth are measured on a scale of 1, 2, and 3 (also referred to as low, medium, and high grade). This system measures the proportion of cancer cells that are growing and making new cells and how closely they resemble the cells of the host tissue. Thus, it is similar to a four-grade system, but divides the spectrum into three rather than four categories (see comparison table below). The expected outcome is more favorable for lower grades.

If a grade is written as 2/3 that means this is a grade 2 of a three-grade system. Do not simply code the numerator. Use the following table to convert the grade to SEER codes.

Term	Grade	SEER Code
1/3, 1/2	Low grade	2
2/3	Intermediate grade	3
3/3, 2/2	High grade	4

**Sarcoma**

Sarcomas are graded low, intermediate or high grade by the pathologist. Use the following table to convert these terms to the correct code for the data item Grade.

Term	Grade	SEER Code
Well differentiated	I	1
Fairly well differentiated	II	2
Low grade	I-II	2
Mid differentiated	II	2
Moderately differentiated	II	2
Partially differentiated	II	2
Partially well differentiated	I-II	2
Partially well differentiated	II	2
Relatively or generally well differentiated	II	2
Medium grade, intermediate grade	II-III	3
Moderately poorly differentiated	III	3
Moderately undifferentiated	III	3
Poorly differentiated	III	3
Relatively poorly differentiated	III	3

## SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2012

Term	Grade	SEER Code
Relatively undifferentiated	III	3
Slightly differentiated	III	3
High grade	III-IV	4
Undifferentiated, anaplastic, not differentiated	IV	4