

# European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR)

## Recommendations for coding Incidence Date

The date of the first event (of the six listed below) to occur chronologically should be chosen as incidence date. If an event of higher priority occurs within three months of the date initially chosen, the date of the higher priority event should take precedence.

Order of declining priority:

1. Date of first histological or cytological confirmation of this malignancy (with the exception of histology or cytology at autopsy). This date should be, in the following order:
  - a) date when the specimen was taken (biopsy)
  - b) date of receipt by the pathologist
  - c) date of the pathology report.
2. Date of admission to the hospital because of this malignancy.
3. When evaluated at an outpatient clinic only: date of first consultation at the outpatient clinic because of this malignancy.
4. Date of diagnosis, other than 1, 2 or 3.
5. Date of death, if no information is available other than the fact that the patient has died because of a malignancy.
6. Date of death, if the malignancy is discovered at autopsy.

Whichever date is selected, the date of incidence should not be later than the date of the start of the treatment, or decision not to treat, or date of death.

The choice of the date of incidence does not determine the coding of the item "basis of diagnosis".

## Working Group Members:

Dr Derek Pheby (Chairman), University of West of England, Bristol, UK  
Dr Carmen Martínez, Granada Cancer Registry, Granada, Spain  
Dr Martine Roumagnac, Tarn Cancer Registry, Albi, France  
Dr Leo Schouten, Maastricht Cancer Registry, Maastricht, The Netherlands