FOREWORD

This book originally came about because my desk was too small.

After layering my Collaborative Staging Manual
        on my Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules
           on my site-specific coding guidelines
              on my SEER Summary Staging book
                on my ICD-O book
                    on my TNM Staging Manual
                      on my FORDS Manual
                        and then needing my CS Manual again,
I began to wish that someone would compile all the important abstracting information into one reference.

I've thought about this project for several years as I've taught workshops and training programs, and as I've worked side-by-side with registrars of many skill levels. When I began teaching the online cancer coding and staging course at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), the need for a single reference book for beginner registrars became even more apparent, so I decided to gather my notes, staging comparisons, abstracting tips and other guidelines into a site-specific abstracting manual.

I work better when I know what specific pieces of information to look for in a health record. That's why this book is full of terms, phrases, examples, and other key information—guidelines that will be helpful not only for new registrars, but for experienced registrars who might encounter an unusual case. I tried to arrange the information in the most practical order, although not all medical records are organized in the same way. Some parts of the site chapters may appear to be repetitious, but that's intentional. Everything for that site is in one place—no need to flip to another section to pick up diagnostic information or morphology. In addition, I know I understand a concept better when I see a picture of it, so I have included as many illustrations of procedures and particularly of Collaborative Staging codes as I thought would be helpful.

This book has two purposes: first, to serve as a text for several courses in the Santa Barbara City College Cancer Information Management Program and other beginning registrars, and second, to provide a reference manual for working cancer registrars. Volume I of the CASEbook consists of introductions to all the staging and coding manuals in effect as of January 1, 2007. These are:
        International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, third edition
        SEER Summary Staging Manual 2000
        AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, sixth edition
        Collaborative Staging Manual, version 1.03
        Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules

After a registrar becomes familiar with the general rules covered in these chapters, the rest of the CASEbook presents site-specific abstracting and coding guidelines for the five major cancer sites:
        Colorectal cancer
        Lung cancer
        Breast cancer
        Prostate cancer
        Bladder cancer

Each site-specific chapter includes information about anatomy of the site and its regional nodes and adjacent structure; the disease process for the site; diagnostic tests; histologic cell types; surgery codes and other types of treatment; other staging systems; and, of course, topography and morphology coding with ICD-O-3; overviews of the multiple primary and histology coding rules;

references to TNM and Summary Stage; and fairly detailed discussion of Collaborative Staging for the site. If you haven't figured it out, CASEbook stands for Coding, Abstracting, Staging, and Exercises, and there are lots of exercises in the book.

Each of the site-specific chapters includes a page of ICD-O-3 site and histology coding exercises and twelve one-page cases to code and stage—and the answers with rationales. All of the cases and answers have been alpha- and beta-tested during several semesters of SBCC's coding and staging course, as well as in recent Principles of Oncology training programs. Of course, there will always be room for interpretation, so if you don't agree with an answer, please feel free to contact me at casebook@afritz.org. Updates and any errata will be posted at www.afritz.org/casebook.

The *Cancer Registry CASEbook* contains a great deal of information originally developed by others. Some of it is from standard registry reference manuals—ICD-O, TNM, SSM2000, CS, MP/H. I tried not to repeat the content of those reference, but instead point out special issues or explain things in a different way. Use the CASEbook as a companion to your standard reference manuals. Much of the content has come from previous versions of registry training materials, such as the *Registrar's Key to Abstracting* that I used for several years in my Principles of Oncology Training Program. I am grateful for Meryl Leventhal's site-specific materials for her SBCC abstracting classes and materials developed by Chris Casagrande-Wilborn and Katheryne Vance, who were the first instructors of SBCC's cancer coding and staging course. Dianne Hultstrom was my co-author on the *Workbook for Staging of Cancer, second edition*, and some of her work has been adapted for the CASEbook. My concern in writing this is that I have forgotten to acknowledge other colleagues whose training materials contributed to the body of resources used to create the CASEbook.

The Internet is a wonderful research tool as well. Many of the illustrations and general cancer facts, including the 'usual' treatments by stage, were found on websites around the world. Credit has been given—and permissions obtained—wherever possible for illustrations in the manual. Public domain graphics and medical clip-art collections provided many of the anatomy illustrations that I adapted to registrar needs.

Most importantly, I want to thank my registrar colleagues and contributing authors for their repeated reviews and valuable comments on these chapters. Louanne Currence, RHIT, CTR, is my co-teacher for Principles of Oncology; Meryl Leventhal, MA, RHIT, CTR, and Katheryne Vance, BA, CTR, are my faculty colleagues at SBCC; Donna Morrell, CTR and Meryl are the teachers of the University of Southern California's cancer registry training program; and Sara Kvaas, RVT, CTR, was such an insightful student in my SBCC class that I asked her to participate in this project as the "novice" just learning to abstract and code, so as to give us all a reality check. My proof reader with the incredibly sharp eyes is my friend and helper on many projects, Annette Hurlbut, RHIT, CTR. Thank you all for your contributions to this book.

You might be asking, *why are there only five sites in this volume?* Well, these five sites comprise around 60% of the caseload in most registries. In addition, it's a physical limitation of the binding. I wanted a book that would lie flat to work exercises in or even fold back on itself, but have a hard cover that would keep the book from curling over on a shelf. The combination limited me to about 400 pages. The introductions and major sites have been completed in Volume I. Volume II, already in development, will contain more primary sites chapters in a similar format. CASEbook users, please share your comments with me. I welcome your suggestions and additional hints, abstracting guidelines and other keys to make all registrars' lives easier.

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