Systemic Treatment/Surgery Sequence

The **Systemic Treatment/Surgery Sequence** data field captures the *sequence* of any systemic tx course(s)/administration(s)/episode(s) in relation to the first surgery during first course treatment.

Systemic Tx is defined as: **Chemotherapy**, **Hormone therapy**, **Biological response therapy/Immunotherapy**, **Bone marrow transplant**, **Stem cell harvests**, **Surgical and/or Radiation Endocrine therapy**.

Surgery is defined as: **Primary Site Surgery** (codes A100-A900 or B100- B900), **Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery** (codes 2-7)*, or **Surgical Procedure of Other Site** (codes 1- 5).

*****NOTE: FNA and core Bx RLN (Scope code 1) are not surgical procedures for 2021+ cases.**

Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence codes (0 - 9) and coding instructions are found in the *SEER Manual 2026* (pp. 235-236) and the *STORE Manual 2026* (pp. 261-262). Use the manual year that corresponds to the year of diagnosis.

To code Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence accurately, include *all episodes/course/ administrations* of systemic treatment given as part of first course in relation to the *first* surgery.

Coding the Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence can be challenging. For example, neoadjuvant systemic treatment is not always coded to 2 (before first surgery). If the patient had neoadjuvant chemo followed by adjuvant chemo, the Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence would be coded to 4 (i.e., before and after first surgery), not 2 (i.e., before surgery). In this case, if you don't include the *episodes/courses* of adjuvant chemo you would miscode the Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence. In your abstracts document in text the date(s), modality, and agent(s) for *all episodes/courses of* systemic tx and *all* surgical procedures that were part of first course to justify your Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence code.

Following are some Systemic Tx/Surgery Sequence code examples for different case scenarios.

Code 2: Systemic treatment before surgery

Stomach

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	CHEMO	(02/15/26) neo-adjuvant FLOT - 5-FU, OXALI-PLATIN, DOCETAXEL
2	SURGERY	(7/10/26) SUB-TOTAL GASTRECTOMY
	---------------	No further treatment
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	2	

Code 3: Systemic treatment after surgery

Breast

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	SURGERY	(02/15/26) LUMPECTOMY & SLNBX
2	HORMONE	(3/28/26) adjuvant LETROZOLE
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	3	

Systemic Treatment/Surgery Sequence (continued)

Code 4: Systemic treatment before and after surgery

Pancreas

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	CHEMO	(03/16/26) neo-adjuvant GEMCITABINE/ABRAXANE
2	SURGERY	(08/04/26) WHIPPLE RESECTION
3	CHEMO	(09/22/26) *continued* adjuvant GEMCITABINE/ABRAXANE
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	4	

Breast

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	CHEMO	(04/11/26) neoadjuvant ADRIMYCIN & CYTOXAN
2	SURGERY	(8/30/26) LUMPECTOMY w/ SLNBX
3	CHEMO & IMMUNO	(10/20/26) adjuvant TAXOL & HERCEPTIN/PERJETA
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	4	

Breast

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	HORMONE	(4/11/26) Bridge TAMOXIFEN (given to *control* cancer cell proliferation until surgery could be performed)
2	SURGERY	(7/20/26) LUMPECTOMY / SLNBX
3	HORMONE	(9/02/26) adjuvant TAMOXIFEN
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	4	

NOTE: When systemic tx is prescribed to control, modify, remove, or destroy cancer cells as part of FCOT, code the *sequence* of the systemic tx (e.g., *bridge* Tamoxifen) in relation to the *first* surgery. If the MD considers the first systemic tx as *bridge* – not neoadjuvant – and thus, not qualifying the case for AJCC ypath staging, we still must capture the systemic tx sequence to code Systemic/Surgery Sequence accurately.

Colon

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	CHEMO	(5/26) neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX
2	SURGERY	(9/26) RIGHT COLECTOMY & LND
3	CHEMO	(11/26) adjuvant CARBOPLATIN & GEMCITABONE
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	4	

Systemic Treatment/Surgery Sequence (continued)

Breast

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	**CHEMO & IMMUNO**	(6/1/26) neoadjuvant **TAXOL** & **HERCEPTIN/ PERJETA**
2	**SURGERY**	(9/14/26) **LUMPECTOMY** w/ **SLNBX**
3	**HORMONE & IMMUNO**	(11/23/26) adjuvant **TAMOXIFEN** & *continued* w/ adjuvant **KANJINTI**
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	**4**	

Codes 5 and 6: Systemic treatment was administered intraoperatively (i.e., during the first surgical procedure in the OR).

Code 5: Intraoperative systemic therapy

Bladder

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	**SURGERY** w/ **CHEMO**	(7/24/26) **TURB** w/ intraoperative **GEMCITABINE** instillation (i.e., **chemo** during the **surgical** procedure in the OR)
	_____	No further treatment
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	**5**	

Code 6: Intraoperative systemic therapy with other systemic therapy administered *before and/or after* surgery

Bladder

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	**SURGERY** w/ **CHEMO**	(7/01/26) **TURB** w/ intraoperative **GEMCITABINE** instillation (i.e., **Chemo** in OR during **TURB** procedure)
2	**IMMUNO**	(9/15/26) **BCG**
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	**6**	intraoperative **chemo** (i.e., *during* the **surgical procedure** *in the OR*) followed by **immuno**

Ovary

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	**CHEMO**	(11/12/26) neoadjuvant **PACLITAXEL & CARBOPLATIN**
2	**SURGERY** w/ **CHEMO**	(02/05/27) **TAH-BSO/ OMENTECTOMY / CYTOREDUCTION** w/ intraoperative **CISPLATIN** (i.e., **Chemo** in OR during **Surgical** procedure)
3	**IMMUNO**	(04/27/27) adjuvant **BEVACIZUMA**
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	**6**	**chemo** *before* **surgery** w/ intraoperative **chemo** *followed by* **immuno**

Remember…

When Systemic treatment IS NOT intraoperative, *neither* code 5 *nor* 6 applies.

Code 3: Systemic therapy after surgery

Bladder

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	SURGERY	(3/01/26) TURB
2	CHEMO	(3/01/26) intravesical GEMCITABINE in Recovery Room
3	IMMUNO	(5/15/26) BCG
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	3	surgery *followed by* chemo in Recovery Room and *subsequent* immuno

When there are multiple treatment episodes that might be coded to either 4 or 7, use the sequence in relation to the first surgery to code Systemic/Surgery Sequence.

Code 7: Surgery both before and after systemic therapy (effective for cases diagnosed 01/01/2012 and later)

Breast

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	SURGERY	(03/10/26) EXCISIONAL BX
2	HORMONE	(03/29/26) Bridge TAMOXIFEN - surgery delayed due to CVA in March
3	SURGERY	(6/23/26) LUMPECTOMY w/ SLNBX
4	HORMONE	(7/27/26) continued w/ adjuvant TAMOXIFEN
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	7	*first* Surgery *before* bridge hormone *followed by* another surgery and then, *continued w/* adjuvant hormone tx

Bladder

SEQUENCE	FCOT	TX
1	SURGERY	(5/10/26) TURB
2	CHEMO	(8/21/26) neoadjuvant CARBOPLATIN & GEMCITABINE
3	SURGERY	(02/12/27) RAD CYSTECTOMY / NEPHROURETERECTOMY / PELVIC EXENTERATION / PLND
4	IMMUNO	(3/15/27) adjuvant NIVOLUMAB
SYSTEMIC / SURG SEQ	7	*first* Surgery *before* chemo *followed by* another surgery *after* chemo