**Background:** Family history is an historical item, and the rules/definitions are retained for consistency over time. Family history fields primarily describe the cancer histories of the patient’s *first degree relatives.* **Codes 1 and 2 take precedence over all other codes.** First degree relatives are limited to the patient’s:

* Parents
* Siblings
* Children

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Description** |
| 0 | No history of cancer (in any relatives, regardless of degree) |
| 1 | At least one 1st degree relative with cancer of the same site/type |
| 2 | 2 or more 1st degree relatives with cancer of the same site/type |
| 3 | First degree relative with cancer of another site/type, including unknown site |
| 4 | 2nd+ degree relative with cancer |
| 5 | History in non-blood relative (e.g. brother-in-law) |
| 7 | Patient adopted, family history unknown |
| 8 | OBSOLETE 2002 forward |
| 9 | Unknown if any family history |

**Steps:**

1. Is there no family history of cancer?
	1. If yes, code **0**
	2. If no, proceed to step 2
2. Is the patient adopted with no information on birth family?
	1. If yes, Code **7**
	2. If no, proceed to step 3
3. Are there two or more first degree relatives with cancer of the same site/type? (e.g.: father and sister)
	1. If yes, Code **2**
	2. If no, proceed to step 4
4. Is there a single first degree relative with cancer of the same type?
	1. If yes, Code **1**
	2. If no, proceed to step 5
5. Are there one or more first degree relatives with cancer(s) of different site(s)/type(s), including unknown primary site/type?
	1. If yes, Code **3**
	2. If no, proceed to step 6
6. Are there one or more 2nd + degree relatives with cancer of any site?
	1. If yes, Code **4**
	2. If no, proceed to step 7
7. Are there one or more non-blood relatives with cancer of any site?
	1. If yes, Code **5**
	2. If no, proceed to step 8
8. Is the family history of cancer unknown or not documented?
	1. If yes, Code **9**

**--------------------End of Instructions---------------------**