Clarification of Prostate Histological Grade Coding (FORDS/SEER vs AJCC)

With the release of AJCC TNM 7th edition, there appears to be some confusion on how registrars are to code histologic grade for prostate cases.

Registrars are to code histological grade based <u>ONLY</u> on the grade coding instructions provided by FORDS and the SEER Program Coding Staging Manual (*which are identical*).

Code	Gleason's Score (sum of primary and secondary patterns)	Terminology	Histologic Grade
1	2, 3, 4	Well differentiated	I
2	5, 6	Moderately differentiated	II
3	7, 8, 9, 10	Poorly differentiated	III

This table is used to convert Gleason Score to grade/differentiation. The grouping for conversion to Grade/Differentiation (NAACCR Item #440) is NOT the same as the **prognostic grouping** used by AJCC to assign stage, because they serve different purposes.

As a result, registrars are <u>NOT TO USE THE HISTOLOGICAL GRADE</u> provided on page 462 of the AJCC TNM 7th edition manual.

Per Donna Gress (AJCC Administrator), the paragraph regarding Gleason's grading system, documented on page 462 of the AJCC TNM 7th edition, refers to *using grade for prognosis whereas the Gleason numbers correspond with the cut points in the stage grouping*. **The bottom line is: This is NOT for registrar coding, <u>this is for the physicians/pathologists to aid in prognosis for their patients</u>. Registrars should follow the rules in FORDS/SEER for coding the grade data item.**