

ACS Cancer Conference 2025

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American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Version 9 Protocols: Current Releases and What's in the Pipeline?

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Disclosures

- I have no relevant financial disclosures

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Objectives

- Transitioning from Edition to Version
- Refining the Version 9 protocol production process
- Protocols released in 2025
- Protocols in the pipeline

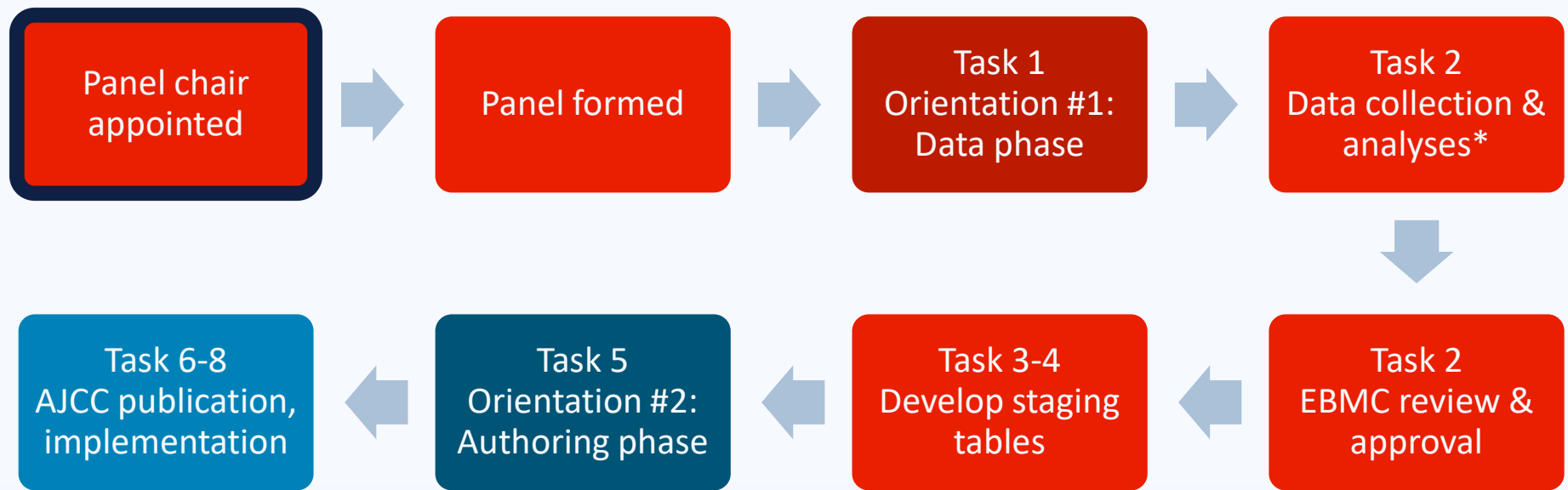
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Editions to Versions

<i>From 8th Edition Manual</i>	<i>To Version 9 Staging System</i>
Hardcopy book	Leverages Content Management infrastructure to support multiple products
Chapters	Protocols for each disease site
Entire manual (all chapters) published simultaneously	Protocols published disease site by disease site based on needs of clinical care & surveillance communities and in coordination with WHO Blue Book update cycle
Print manual → “static”	Electronic platform facilitates rapid integration of updated staging information into EHR and cancer registry software as well as other products

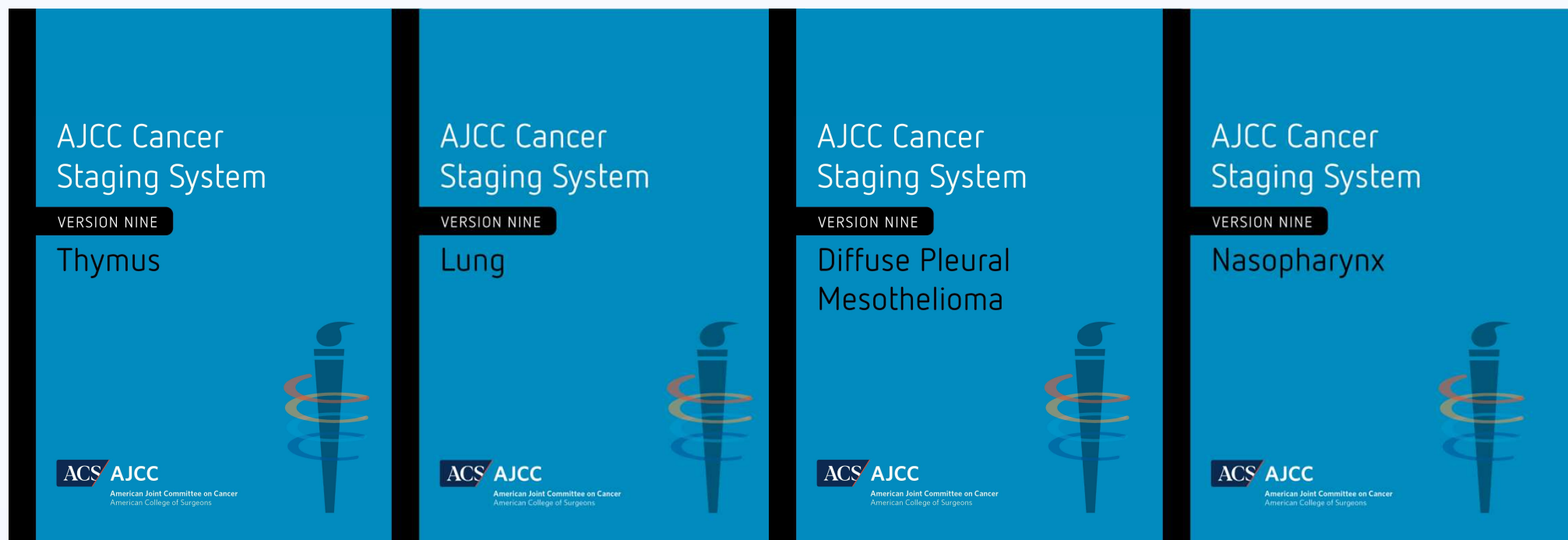
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Process Roadmap



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Protocols Released in 2025



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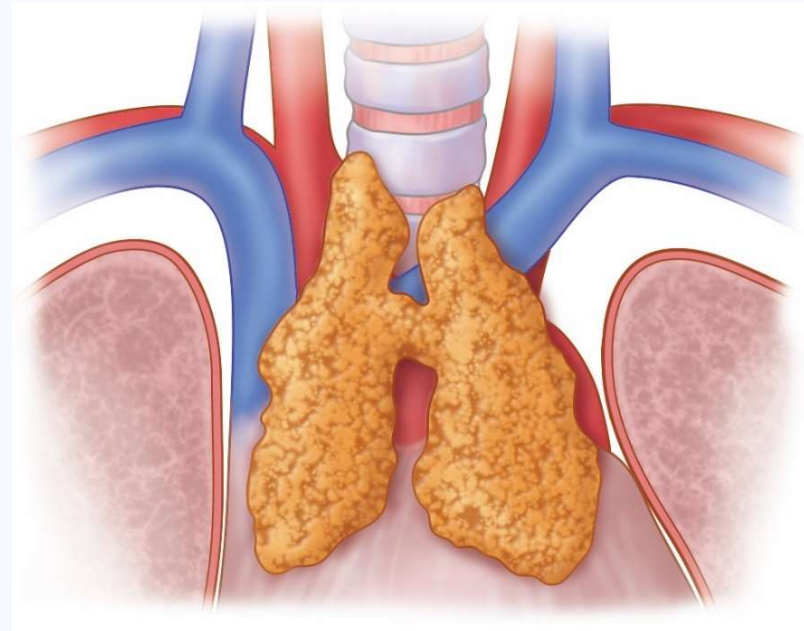
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What is New in Version 9 Protocol: Thymus

- Definition of Primary Tumor (T)
 - T1, T2, T3 definitions revised
- New/updated illustrations
 - Anatomy
 - Nodal Map
 - T1-T4, N1-N2, M1a, M1b

FIGURE THYMUS-ANATOMY.

Anatomy illustration for the thymus.



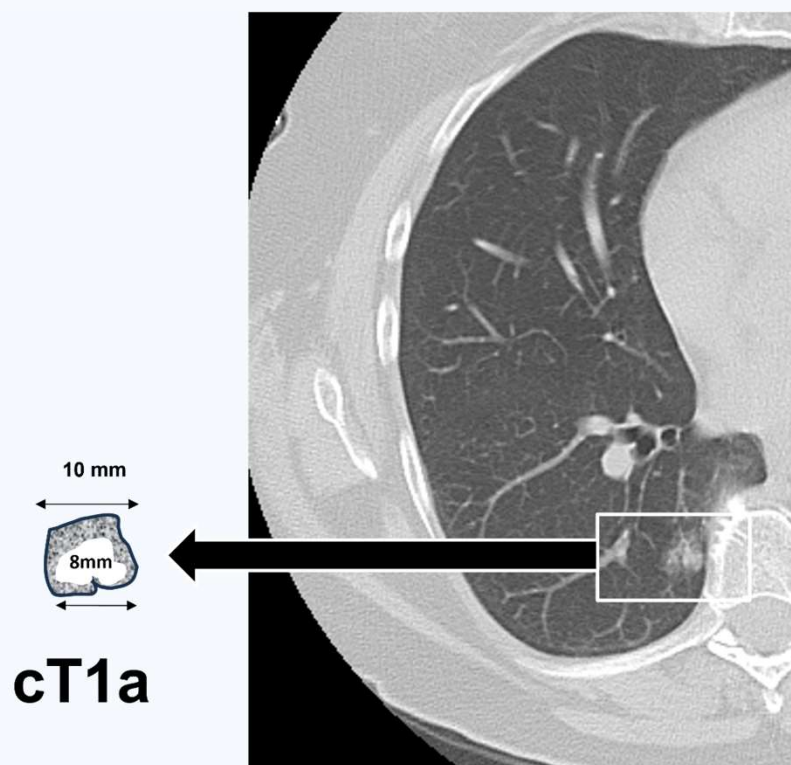
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What is New in Version 9 Protocol: Lung

- Definition of Primary Tumor (T)
 - T2a, T3, T4 definitions revised
- Definition of Regional Lymph Nodes (N)
 - N2 subdivided into N2a and N2b
- Definition of Distant Metastasis (M)
 - M1c subdivided into M1c1 and M1c2
- AJCC Prognostic Stage Groups
 - Stage groups revised
- Spread through air spaces (STAS) introduced as an additional histologic descriptor
- New/updated illustrations
 - Multiple imaging illustrations
 - T1-T4, N1-N3, M1a, M1b, M1c1, M1c2

FIGURE LUNG-IMAGING INVASIVE ADENOCARCINOMA (cT1a).

10 mm part solid nodule in the right lower lobe with an 8 mm solid component (white box); schematic drawing showing 10 mm total tumor (solid + ground glass component); solid (white) 8 mm determines the invasive component and the cT category of cT1a.



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What is New in Version 9 Protocol: Diffuse Pleural Mesothelioma

- Definition of Primary Tumor (T)
 - T categories revised
- AJCC Prognostic Stage Groups
 - Stage groups revised
- Grade (G)
 - New grading system for epithelioid mesothelioma
- New/updated illustrations
 - Measuring Pleural thickness
 - T1-T4, N1-N2

FIGURE DIFFUSE PLEURAL MESOTHELIOMA-T1. Reprinted courtesy of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer. Copyright ©2024, Aletta Ann Frazier. Figures 1-7. IASLC Atlas Figures of Mesothelioma Staging, reprinted from the IASLC Staging Manual in Thoracic Oncology, 3rd Edition (p. 174-177).

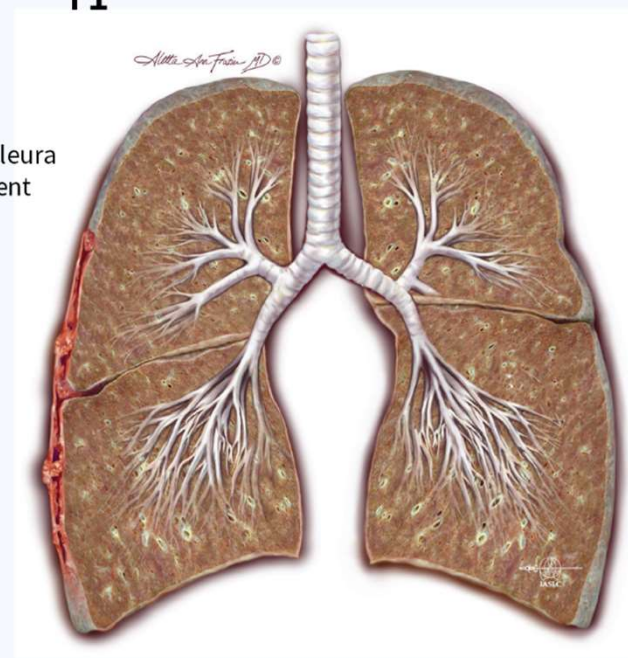
T1

CLINICAL T (cT)

cT1: Tumor limited to the ipsilateral pleura with $P_{sum}^a \leq 12\text{mm}$ with no involvement of the fissure ($F_{max}^b \leq 5\text{mm}$)

PATHOLOGICAL T (pT)

pT1: Tumor limited to the ipsilateral pleura with no involvement of the fissure

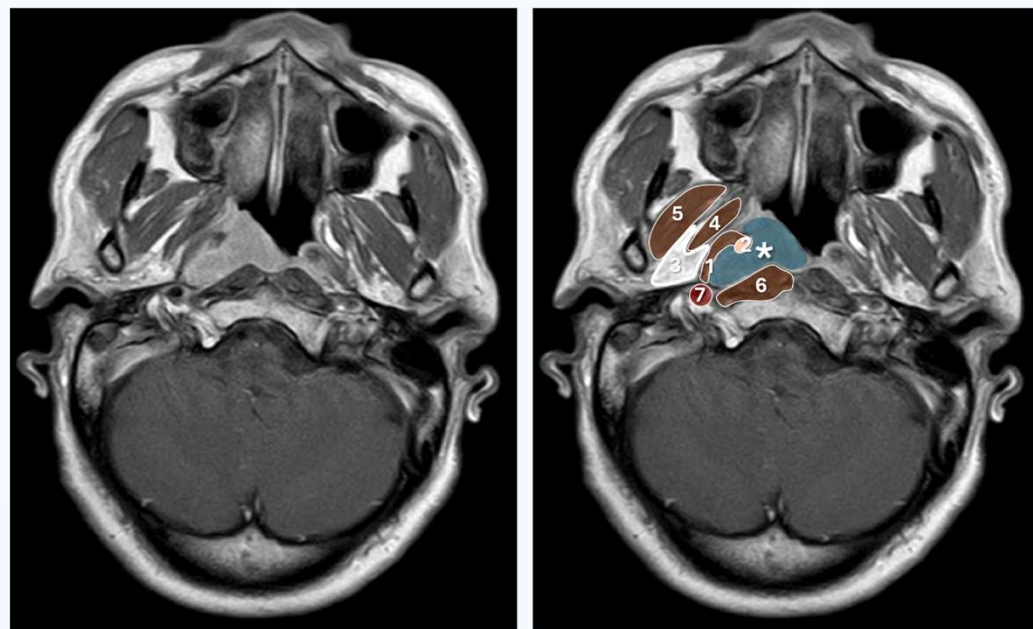


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What is New in Version 9 Protocol: Nasopharynx

- Definition of Primary Tumor (T)
 - T3 and T4 clarified
- Definition of Regional Lymph Nodes (N)
 - Addition of advanced radiologic and/or clinical extranodal extension as N3 criterion
- Definition of Distant Metastasis (M)
 - M1 subdivided into M1a and M1b
- AJCC Prognostic Stage Groups
 - Stage groups revised
- Identification of Primary Site
 - Minor salivary gland tumors are not included
- New/updated illustrations
 - Anatomy imaging illustration
 - Histopathologic type illustration
 - T1-T4, N1-N3

FIGURE NASOPHARYNX-T1. Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (*, blue) confined to the nasopharynx and displacing the right levator palatini muscle (1, brown), torus tubarius (2, pink), and compressing the prevertebral muscle (6, brown) but without invasion of the muscle or other T2 structures (parapharyngeal fat (3, white), medial (4) and lateral (5) pterygoid muscles (brown), or carotid sheath (7, red).



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Protocols in the Pipeline

2026	2027
HPV Associated Oropharyngeal Cancer	Breast
Salivary Glands	Colon
	Rectum
	Conjunctival Carcinoma
	Conjunctival Melanoma

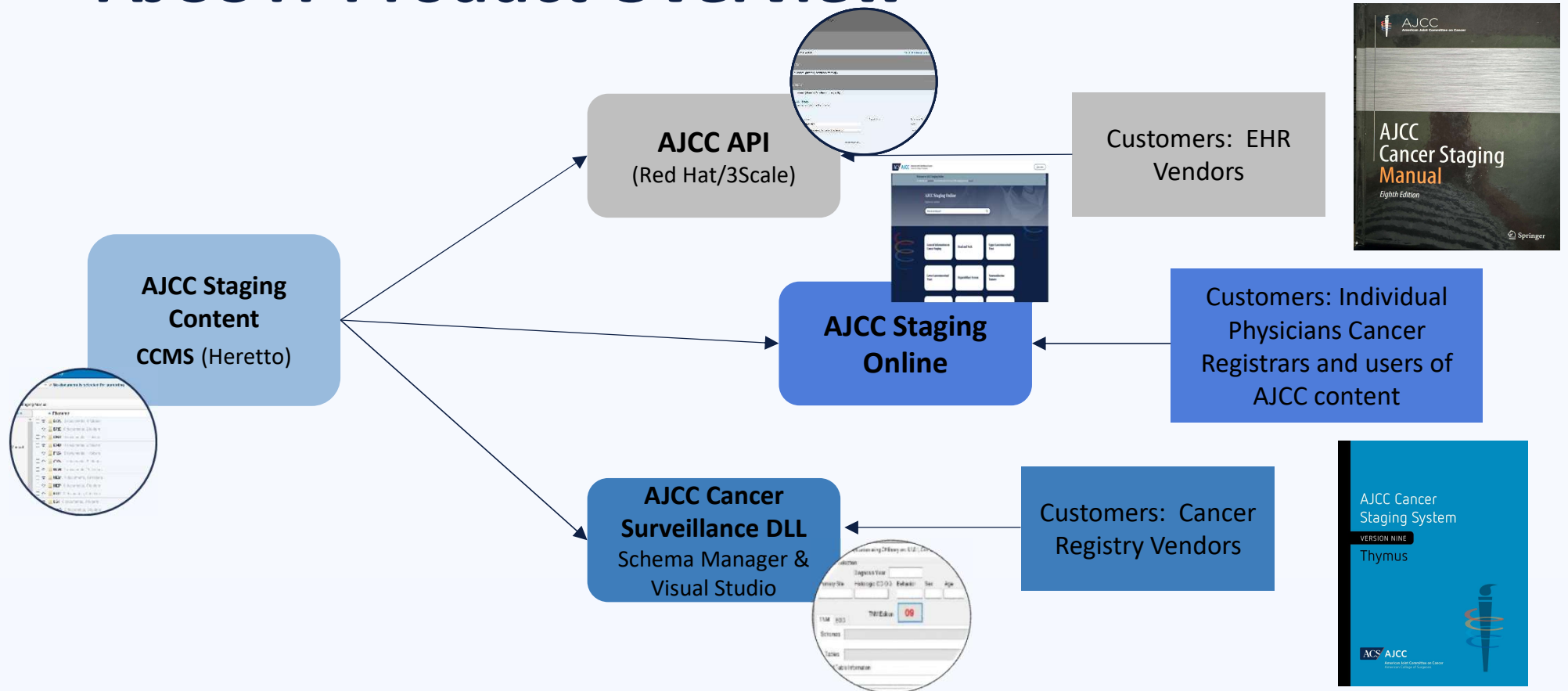
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Need for CCMS to Evolve with Cancer Staging

- CCMS based on highly structured DITA XML
- Protocol structure is based on CCMS structure
 - All content has a “bucket” in which to reside
 - There are finite number of buckets
- API Customers depend on stable structure

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AJCC IT Product Overview



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58 Remaining Protocols

Head and Neck	Intrahepatic Bile Duct	Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor	Penis	Ocular Adnexal Lymphoma
Staging Head and Neck Cancers	Intrahepatic Bile Duct	Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Retroperitoneum	Prostate	Endocrine System
Cervical Lymph Nodes and Unknown Primary Tumors of the Head and Neck	Gallbladder	Soft Tissue Sarcoma-Unusual Histologies and Sites	Testis	Thyroid-Differentiated and Anaplastic Carcinoma
Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx	Perihilar Bile Ducts	Skin	Urinary Tract	Thyroid-Medullary
Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses	Distal Bile Ducts	Merkel Cell Carcinoma	Kidney	Parathyroid
Larynx	Ampulla of Vater	Melanoma of the Skin	Renal Pelvis	Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma
Mucosal Melanoma of the Head and Neck	Exocrine Pancreas	Female Reproductive Organs	Urinary Bladder	Adrenal-Neuroendocrine Tumors
Cutaneous Carcinoma of the Head and Neck	Bone	Introduction to Female Reproductive Organs	Urethra	Hematologic Malignancies
Upper GI	Bone	Vagina	Ophthalmic Sites	Introduction to Hemtologic Malignancies
Esophagus and Esophagogastric Junction	Soft Tissue Sarcoma	Corpus Uteri-Carcinoma and Carcinosarcoma	Eyelid Carcinoma	Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
Stomach	Introduction to Soft Tissue Sarcoma	Corpus Uteri-Sarcoma	Uveal Melanoma	Pediatric Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
Small Intestine	Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Head and Neck	Ovary, Fallopian Tube, and Primary Peritoneal Carcinoma	Retinoblastoma	Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas
Heptobiliary System	Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Trunk and Extremities	Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasms	Lacrimal Gland Carcinoma	Plasma Cell Myeloma and Plasma Cell Disorders
Liver	Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Abdomen and Thoracic Visceral Organs	Male Genital Organs	Orbital Sarcoma	Leukemia

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Our Plan for the Remaining 58 Protocols

- All panel chairs have been selected
- Panel chairs are reviewing their sites and providing information on future changes to Editorial Committee
- AJCC Editorial committee is creating an action plan with timeline and details

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Questions?