## Cellular pathology audit template

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| --- | --- |
| Date of completion  | (To be inserted when completed) |
| Name of lead author/participants | (To be inserted) |
| Specialty | Cellular pathology  |
| Title | **An audit of histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin** |
| Background | Confirmed cancer of unknown primary (CUP) is a relatively rare diagnosis in most cellular pathology departments. However, the diagnostic challenge of cases presenting as malignancy of unknown primary origin (MUO) is relatively common. In 2024, the *Dataset for histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin*1 was published, which states the data items to be included when reporting these specimens. |
| Aim & objectives | To determine whether the histopathological reports of CUP and MUO meet the reasonable requirements of users:* the core data items in the dataset are included in histology reports
* reports are produced in a timely manner.
 |
| Standards & criteria | **Criteria range:** 100%, or if not achieved, there is documentation in the report or case notes that explains the variance.Each core data item stated in the dataset for inclusion in histology reports of CUP and MUO should be indicated in the final pathology report. |
| Method | **Sample selection:** (To be completed by the author)* retrospective selection of all cases for a specified time period
* review of histology reports
* record whether the core data items are/are not included
* record turnaround time for reports (calendar days).

Note: this audit could potentially include all cases presenting as MUO; but it may be simpler to focus on cases of provisional or confirmed CUP in first instance. These cases may have a range of topographical and morphological codes (Appendix A of the *Dataset for histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin*1), which can make searching of pathology databases more time-consuming. Additional options for case identification could include free text search of reports for relevant wording, e.g. CUP, ‘unknown primary’ etc, or review of cases discussed at CUP multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings.Analyse results for:* all consultants reporting cases of CUP and MUO.

**Data to be collected on proforma (see below).** |
| Results | (To be completed by the author)The results of this audit show the following compliance with the standards.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Data items** | % compliance |
| Site of sample |  |
| Type of sample |  |
| Morphology (description) |  |
| Immunohistochemistry (IHC) (description of results) |  |
| Exclude lymphoma, germ cell tumour, melanoma and sarcoma (by IHC or confident diagnosis of another category)  |  |
| Broad morphological diagnosis |  |
| Discussion at CUP MDT (or equivalent recommendation) |  |

**Commentary:** |
| Conclusion | (To be completed by the author) |
| Recommend-ations for improvement | Present the result with recommendations, actions and responsibilities for action and a timescale for implementation. Assign a person(s) responsible to do the work within a timeframe.**Some suggestions:*** highlight areas of practice that are different
* present findings.
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| Action plan | (To be completed by the author – see attached action plan proforma) |
| Re-audit date | (To be completed by the author) |
| References | 1. The Royal College of Pathologists. *Dataset for histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin.* Available at: https://www.rcpath.org/profession/guidelines/cancer-datasets-and-tissue-pathways.html
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## Data collection proforma for audit of histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin

## Audit reviewing practice

Patient name:

Hospital number:

Date of birth:

Consultant:

Case number:

Date of collection/receipt:

Date of report:

Turnaround time (days):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1**Yes  | **2**No | **3** If **No**, was there documentation to explain the variance? **Yes/No** plus free-text comment. | **4** Compliant with guideline based on **Yes** from column 1 or an appropriate explanation from column 3. **Yes/No** |
| Site of sample |  |  |  |  |
| Type of sample |  |  |  |  |
| Morphology (description) |  |  |  |  |
| Immunohistochemistry (description of results) |  |  |  |  |
| Exclude lymphoma, germ cell tumour, melanoma and sarcoma (by IHC or confident diagnosis of another category) |  |  |  |  |
| Broad morphological diagnosis |  |  |  |  |
| Discussion at CUP MDT (or equivalent recommendation) |  |  |  |  |
| **Audit action plan** An audit of histopathological reporting of cancer of unknown primary and malignancy of unknown primary origin |
| Audit recommendation | Objective | Action | Timescale | Barriers and constraints | Outcome | Monitoring |
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