

# CSO Coding Instructions

**Purpose:** CBCRP is a partner in a consortium of cancer funding agencies, called the International Cancer Research Portfolio that has developed a Web-based listing of research grants, abstracts, and a new classification scheme. We intend to use this information to: (1) encourage applicants to find topics not well represented by funding agencies, so they can contrast their proposed projects from existing funding, and (2) allow CBCRP to better distinguish our portfolio from that of other agencies.

**How to code your application:** Enter the CSO codes for your application's research topic in the space(s) provided in the Proposal Section page called "abstracts" in the upper two boxes in the lower portion of this page. Coding is best done by the individual writing the research plan and abstracts. The CSO coding scheme is presented in the Web site: [www.cancerportfolio.org/cso.cfm](http://www.cancerportfolio.org/cso.cfm)

There are seven major CSO categories, and each of these is divided into 4-9 sub-categories. First, familiarize yourself with the major heading under which you think your research belongs. For example, CBCRP's priority issue "Biology of the Breast Cell" matches the CSO category of "Biology". Epidemiology studies most likely will be under either CSO categories "Etiology" or "Prevention." There may not be an exact CSO and CBCRP topic correspondence, but the bullets on the CSO Web site and those under our priority issues listings in the "CBCRP General Application Requirement" download should allow you to make a rational selection.

Next, you can use either one or two CSO codes to best categorize your application:

- Use a single CSO code if it best describes the total topic area of the application. **Many applications are adequately characterized by one code.**
- If your project fits under more than one CSO category, then add a second code. The second code should represent a different, but integral part of the research, not a contingency aim, and represent some minimum of the total effort. For example, many of our grants under the priority issue of Detection/Prognosis/Treatment (CSO major categories #4 or #5) would also receive a second code assignment under the CSO "Biology" category (#1), because the project involves some component for advancing basic tumor biology gene or protein mechanism/function.

Here are two examples from CBCRP's grant coding:

- "Understanding Tamoxifen-A Drug for Breast Cancer", studied tamoxifen activity on AP-1 in cell culture and then used genetic and biochemical approaches to understand how tamoxifen stimulates AP-1, and how the estrogen-like effects of tamoxifen on cancer growth might arise. We coded this grant as a 1.1 (first code) & 1.3 (second code).
- "Pre-clinical Cryosurgery Testing in Breast Cancer Treatment" proposed to establish the use of imaging monitored cryosurgery for treatment of breast cancer. This was satisfactorily coded using the single 5.1 code.