



Chronic Condition Coding Awareness: Cancer Part I

Cancer

Cancer starts when cells grow out of control and crowd normal cells². In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues¹. There are many types of cancer and the causes vary greatly.

Symptoms of Cancer

The signs and symptoms will depend on where the cancer is located, how big it is, and how much it affects the organs or tissues². If a cancer has spread (*metastasized*), signs or symptoms may appear in different parts of the body². Some signs include noticeable changes such as changes in the skin, breast, or urination¹ while other signs are not known until the cancer has grown quite large².

Treatment of Cancer

There are many types of treatment that will depend on the type of cancer and how advanced it is¹. Common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy².

Malignant Neoplasm Coding Guidance

TIPS:	ICD-10 Mapping & Education
➤ ICD-10-CM	C00 – D49 code series O9A.1- code series (Malignant neoplasm in Pregnancy)
➤ Specify Anatomical Site and Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Malignant Primary (original site) <input type="checkbox"/> Benign <input type="checkbox"/> Malignant Secondary (metastasized) <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Carcinoma in situ <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified Behavior
➤ Primary vs. Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/> Exam is for Primary Malignant site(s) with known/unknown secondary site(s): 1st Dx: [Primary] Cancer 2nd Dx: [Known/Unknown] Cancer <input type="checkbox"/> Exam is for Secondary Malignant site(s) with an active primary site(s): 1st Dx: [Secondary] Cancer 2nd Dx: [Primary] Cancer
➤ Admission for treatment	1. Code FIRST : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encounter for radiation therapy (Z51.0) ○ Encounter for chemotherapy (Z51.11) ○ Encounter for immunotherapy (Z51.12) 2. Code SECOND : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malignancy for which the therapy is being administered.
➤ Active vs. "History of"... vs. "in remission"	<p>Active: Malignancy is excised but patient is still undergoing treatment directed to that site. Primary malignancy codes should be used until treatment is complete. <i>Example: "Patient with ongoing chemotherapy after right mastectomy for breast cancer."</i></p> <p>History of Malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated, there is no further treatment directed to that site, and no evidence of any existing primary malignancy. Then malignancy is considered a "history of" for coding purposes (Z85.-). <i>Example: "Breast cancer treated with mastectomy and adjunct chemotherapy 3 years ago."</i></p> <p>In Remission: Don't confuse personal history with "in remission". Codes for leukemia, multiple myeloma, and malignant plasma cell neoplasms indicate whether the condition has achieved remission³. <i>Example: "Patient with leukemia documented as "in remission" is admitted for autologous bone marrow transplantation."</i></p>

1. National Cancer Institute <https://www.cancer.gov/>
2. American Cancer Association <http://www.cancer.org/>
3. Elsevier Clinical Solutions (Understanding the ICD-10-CM Neoplasm Coding Guidelines)
4. 2023 ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians: The complete official code set, Optum 2023 (optumcoding.com)

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