



## Chronic Condition Coding Awareness: Cancer Part I

### Cancer

Cancer starts when cells grow out of control and crowd normal cells<sup>2</sup>. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues<sup>1</sup>. 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 tissues<sup>2</sup>. If a cancer has spread (*metastasized*), signs or symptoms may appear in different parts of the body<sup>2</sup>. Some signs include noticeable changes such as changes in the skin, breast, or urination<sup>1</sup> while other signs are not known until the cancer has grown quite large<sup>2</sup>.

### Treatment of Cancer

There are many types of treatment that will depend on the type of cancer and how advanced it is<sup>1</sup>. Common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy<sup>2</sup>.

### Malignant Neoplasm Coding Guidance

TIPS:	ICD-10 Mapping & Education
➤ <b>ICD-10-CM</b>	C00 – D49 code series O9A.1- code series (Malignant neoplasm in Pregnancy)
➤ <b>Specify Anatomical Site and Behavior</b>	<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
➤ <b>Primary vs. Secondary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Exam is for Primary Malignant site(s) with known/unknown secondary site(s): <b>1st Dx: [Primary] Cancer      2nd Dx: [Known/Unknown] Cancer</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Exam is for Secondary Malignant site(s) with an active primary site(s): <b>1st Dx: [Secondary] Cancer      2nd Dx: [Primary] Cancer</b>
➤ <b>Admission for treatment</b>	1. Code <b>FIRST</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encounter for radiation therapy (Z51.0)</li> <li>○ Encounter for chemotherapy (Z51.11)</li> <li>○ Encounter for immunotherapy (Z51.12)</li> </ul> 2. Code <b>SECOND</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Malignancy for which the therapy is being administered.</li> </ul>
➤ <b>Active vs. "History of"... vs. "in remission"</b>	<p><b>Active:</b> 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><b>History of:</b> 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 <b>"history of"</b> for coding purposes (Z85.-).  <i>Example: "Breast cancer treated with mastectomy and adjunct chemotherapy 3 years ago."</i></p> <p><b>In Remission:</b> Don't confuse personal history with "in remission". Codes for leukemia, multiple myeloma, and malignant plasma cell neoplasms indicate whether the condition has achieved remission<sup>3</sup>.  <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. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/10cmguidelines\\_fy2018\\_final.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/10cmguidelines_fy2018_final.pdf)