

# Diagnosis Code Tipsheet: Neoplasm



ICD-10 diagnosis code assignment for neoplasms is dependent on accurate and complete documentation within the medical record

| Neoplasm type   | Location   | Cell type   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary</li> <li>• Secondary/metastatic</li> <li>• Benign</li> <li>• In-Situ</li> <li>• Uncertain Behavior</li> <li>• Unspecified</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify body site or part</li> <li>• Tissue type: skin, lymphatic, connective, neuroendocrine, hematopoietic</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carcinoma</li> <li>• Kaposi's sarcoma</li> <li>• Burkitt's lymphoma</li> <li>• Melanoma</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesothelioma</li> <li>• Mast cell leukemia</li> <li>• Osteosarcoma</li> </ul> |

## ACTIVE/CURRENT

The condition is still present or still being treated; If a selective estrogen receptor modulatory (SERM) is prescribed, document whether the medication is being used for treatment for active cancer or for prophylactic use

Record clearly states active treatment is for palliative care or curing the cancer

States cancer is present but unresponsive to treatment

Current treatment plan is observation or "watchful waiting"

Active disease but patient refused treatment

## PERSONAL HISTORY OF

The condition has been excised or eradicated and all treatment completed

May be documented as "no evidence of disease" (NED)

A primary cancer may be a history of while a secondary site may still be undergoing treatment

Use history code from category Z85:

Z85.0 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of digestive organs

Z85.1 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung

Z85.2 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of other respiratory and intrathoracic organs

Z85.3 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast

Z85.4 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of genital organs

Z85.5 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of urinary tract

Z85.6 – Personal history of leukemia

Z85.7 – Personal history of other malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, hematopoietic and related tissues

Z85.8 – Personal history of malignant neoplasms of other organs and systems

Z85.9 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm, unspecified

Do not code history of code along with an active cancer code

## PRIMARY MALIGNANCIES

Malignant neoplasm, stated or presumed to be primary

A primary malignant neoplasm that overlaps two or more contiguous sites should be classified to the subcategory XX.8 (overlapping lesion) unless the combination is specifically indexed elsewhere

For multiple neoplasms of the same site that are not contiguous such as tumors in different quadrants of the same breast, codes for each site should be assigned

## METASTATIC MALIGNANCIES

ICD 10 defines metastasis as a spread of malignancy to a distant site OR an extension into an adjacent sight

Use of the words "to" and "from" in notes will clarify the origin of the neoplasm

When using the term "secondary" remember to document what the neoplasm is secondary to

If the staging of the cancer is known, enter into the medical record

**Active Treatment vs. Preventive Care**

What determines active treatment vs preventive care is how a drug is used

- Neoadjuvant chemotherapy – administered before surgery to reduce size of tumor and provide more treatment options
- Adjuvant – “in addition to” referring to medicine administered after surgery for treatment i.e. chemotherapy, radiation, or hormonal therapy

**Purpose of Adjuvant Therapy**

- Curative – to treat cancer
- Palliative – to relieve symptoms and reduce suffering without effective a cure
- Preventive/Prophylactic – to keep cancer from reoccurring in a person who has already been treated for cancer or in a person who is at an increased risk for developing cancer due to family history or other factors