

Provider Education

Quality Documentation & Coding Pearls

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CANCER

As the population ages, the number of people who have had or will have cancer is rising. The single greatest risk factor for cancer is age, and more than 60% of new cancers are diagnosed in people 65 years of age and older.



When documenting cancer, it is important to clearly state whether it is in the PAST or PRESENT; in other words, HISTORY OF or ACTIVE.

Diagnose cancer as active ONLY when it is present and the patient is:

- Waiting for treatment
- Undergoing treatment (chemo or radiation)
- Taking adjuvant therapy (Lupron or Tamoxifen)
- Watchfully waiting before deciding to begin treatment
- Refusing treatment

YOU MUST CLEARLY DOCUMENT THE ACTIVE TREATMENT PLAN.

Diagnose all metastases as:

- Secondary malignancy to
 - Major organ
 - Lymph node

Diagnose cancer as "history of" when it is in the past (active treatment is finished) and the patient is:

- In remission
- Cured
- Without evidence of disease
- Only undergoing active surveillance for recurrence

Look for health conditions that can be associated with cancer or treatment of cancer:

- Diabetes – increases the risk of cancer
- Morbid obesity – increases the risk of cancer and can result from changes in metabolism and decrease physical activity
- Protein calorie malnutrition – can result from cancer, treatment, side effects of treatment, and depression
- Cardiomyopathy - due to treatment
- Peripheral neuropathy - due to the treatment or the cancer itself
- Major depression – common during chronic illness
- Neutropenia or pancytopenia – due to treatment

CODING TIPS

Common cancer types among survivors:

C18._	Colon Cancer
C20	Rectal Cancer
C43._	Malignant Melanoma
C50._	Breast Cancer
C55	Uterine Cancer
C61	Prostate Cancer
C67._	Bladder Cancer
C73	Thyroid Cancer
C85.8_	Non-Hodg. Lymphoma

Specify the site of the metastases:

C77._	Secondary Malignancy to Lymph Nodes
C78._	Secondary Malignancy to Major Organs
C79._	

Common complications of cancer & treatment:

G62.0	Neuropathy 2° chemo
G62.82	Neuropathy 2° radiation
G63	Neuropathy 2° cancer
D61.810	Pancytopenia 2° chemo
D70.2	Neutropenia 2° chemo
E46	Malnutrition
F32/F33	Major depression
I42.7	Cardiomyopathy 2° drugs

STAR Measures:

Breast cancer screening: women ages 50-74 – mammogram every 2 years

Colon cancer screening: patients ages 50-75 – multiple options



Don't forget to **VALIDATE: DIAGNOSIS, STATUS & PLAN**

Questions? Call (480) 499-8700 ext. 8205 or email provider.education@azprioritycare.com

