

Cancer

When documenting cancer, it is imperative to include **site, laterality, source** (primary and/or secondary), and **status** (active vs. history of/resolved) of each neoplasm.

Documentation

Documenting “**active**” or “**history of/resolved**” is contingent on the clinical decision of the provider and needs to be recorded in the medical record. Here are some reminders to differentiate between the two:

Active Cancer

For active cancer, the patient is:

- ▶ Newly diagnosed, awaiting treatment, or being monitored
- ▶ Refusing treatment
- ▶ Undergoing chemotherapy or radiation
- ▶ Awaiting surgery
- ▶ On hormonal therapy for **curative** or **palliative** purposes

History of/Resolved Cancer

For history of/resolved cancer, the patient is:

- ▶ Postoperative and all evidence of primary cancer has been excised
- ▶ Coming back for surveillance visits only
- ▶ On hormonal therapy for **prophylactic** purposes

Leukemia and Multiple Myeloma

Documentation

- ▶ Leukemia and multiple myeloma are the only cancers classified with additional designations of “**in remission**” or “**in relapse**” in ICD-10 diagnosis coding. Providers must clearly document the diagnosis.
- ▶ “**History of,**” while uncommon when the onset of leukemia is in adults, may be considered when the onset is in childhood.

Coding Tips

Please see **codes C90.- through C95.-** for the most appropriate “**in remission**” or “**in relapse**” code.

Commonly Missed Conditions in the Oncological Patient

Documentation

When treating your oncological patient, be sure to document and capture other common disorders that can accompany their disease process (when appropriate). These can include immunodeficiency, polyneuropathy, and protein-calorie malnutrition. Remember that coders rely on the provider’s documentation to delineate if a patient’s immunodeficiency or polyneuropathy is caused by chemotherapy or radiation.

Coding Tips

| Diagnosis Codes | |
|-----------------|--|
| Code | Description |
| D84.81 | Immunodeficiency due to conditions classified elsewhere – Code the underlying condition/neoplasm first |
| D84.821 | Immunodeficiency due to drugs |
| D84.822 | Immunodeficiency due to external causes – Code if applicable, radiological procedure and radiotherapy |

| Diagnosis Codes | |
|-----------------|---|
| Code | Description |
| E44.0 | Protein-calorie malnutrition, moderate |
| E44.1 | Protein-calorie malnutrition, mild |
| E46 | Protein-calorie malnutrition, unspecified |
| R64 | Cachexia |
| G62.0 | Drug-induced polyneuropathy |
| G62.82 | Radiation-induced polyneuropathy |

For additional information, go to:
 AlabamaBlue.com/Providers/CodingCorner



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