

Cancer and Metastatic Cancer

Primary Malignancy Previously Excised

“When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site and there is no further treatment directed to that site and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy at that site, a code from category Z85, Personal history of malignant neoplasm, should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy. Any mention of extension, invasion, or metastasis to another site is coded as a secondary malignant neoplasm to that site.” *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, Section I.C.2.d.*

- Code Personal History of Malignant Neoplasm
 - No further treatment
- Code Current Neoplasm
 - Removed, still undergoing pharmacologic or radiation treatment
 - Watchful waiting, no treatment
 - Refusal of treatment
 - Too frail for treatment

Code All Documented Conditions that Coexist

“Do not code conditions that were previously treated and no longer exist.” *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, Section IV.J.*

- Report excised/eradicated cancer not undergoing current treatment with personal history of malignant neoplasm (Z85 section of ICD-10-CM)

Surveillance without Findings

- In coding, this is screening (AHA Coding Clinic®, 2021, Issue 1)
 - Report an encounter for screening (Z12.-)
 - Report any personal history of cancer (Z85.-)
 - Report any family history of cancer (Z80.-)
 - Report genetic susceptibility (Z15.0-)

Examples

- Assessment: Esophageal cancer 2016. Early stage and cancer free on surveillance. Z85.01, personal history of malignant neoplasm of the esophagus, is the correct code. Do not code C15.-, malignant neoplasm of esophagus
- Assessment: Hx of small cell lung cancer in 2004. Z85.118, personal history of malignant neoplasm of lung, is the correct code. Do not code C34.-, malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung
- Impression: Mastectomy last year for breast cancer. Currently taking Anastrozole. Code C50.-, malignant neoplasm of breast
- Impression: Elderly male with prostate cancer diagnosed in 2020, PSA rising slowly. Prefers to continue watchful waiting. Code C61, malignant neoplasm of prostate.

- Assessment: History of malignant melanoma, skin of neck. Concern for mets to the brain. Ordering brain MRI. Code Z85.820, personal history of malignant melanoma of skin.
- Impression: Colon cancer, removed 2018, no further treatment. Found mets to the liver on recent CT scan. Code C78.7, secondary malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile duct, and Z85.038, personal history of malignant neoplasm of large intestine.
- Diagnosis: History of bladder cancer. Follow up cystoscopy. No evidence of disease. Code Z85.51, personal history of bladder cancer.

References:

ICD-10-CM: www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2023-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines-updated-01/11/2023.pdf

AHA Coding Clinic®, 2020, Issue 1

Note: ICD-10-CM codes are current as of July 2023. For service dates on or after Oct. 1, 2023, the reader should reference their ICD-10-CM resource for the most accurate code.