

ICD-10-CM Documentation Essentials for Oncology

1

Document reason for Encounter

- New or established patient visit, aftercare, follow-up, etc.
- Encounter for Radiotherapy
- Encounter for Antineoplastic Chemotherapy and/or Immunotherapy
- Whether treatment is therapeutic, curative, prophylactic, palliative

2

Document Extent of Patient's Condition

- Document all site(s) of primary malignancy(ies), invasive and/or in-situ
- Document all site(s) of secondary malignancy(ies)
- If not a malignancy, fully document all medical condition(s)
- Document other conditions evaluated and/or treated, including HIV/AIDs

3

Document Relevant History

- Document any known personal or family history of malignancy
- Document any known genetic susceptibility or genetic carrier status
- Document other relevant personal history
- Fully document extent of tobacco and/or alcohol use, addiction or history

4

Document Prior Treatment

- Document any history of radiation treatment and/or chemotherapy
- Document any signs and/or symptoms exhibited by the patient
- Document postoperative neoplasm excision, partial or total organ removal
- Document recurrent medical conditions or illnesses in remission

5

Document Relevant Current Conditions

- Document known concurrent chemotherapy or other drug therapy
- Document patient use of wheelchair, oxygen dependence, etc.
- Document pacemaker in situ, ostomy, PEG tube, hip replacement, etc.
- Document elevated tumor markers, abnormal imaging studies, etc.

6

Document Complications or Reactions

- Document sequelae of treatment (e.g., nausea, erythema, etc.)
- Document relation of new medical conditions to treatment (e.g., complication)
- Document unrelated medical conditions treated
- Document episode of care (initial, subsequent, late effect)

In the oncology setting, accurate diagnosis code assignment goes beyond assigning the correct code for the patient's malignancy or primary condition to be treated. Most patients have a number of medical conditions that should be documented and reported. Complete and accurate documentation will support both the medical necessity of the treatment option(s) selected and the complexity of individual patient care provided.