



## **ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Oncology**

### **ICD-10 Neoplasm Coding (general):**

- ❖ Specific anatomical site (including laterality)
- ❖ Whether primary or secondary site
- ❖ Behavior of the neoplasm
- ❖ Cell type or subtype
- ❖ Reason for admission (*very important to document*)

**Note: there is a new anatomic category available for coders, if a lesion overlaps two or more contiguous designated sites (see breast below)**

- ❖ Such malignancies can only be coded correctly if the physician identifies that lesion is overlapping multiple sites

### **Reason for Code Expansion in ICD-10:**

- ❖ **Pathophysiologic specificity**
  - Example: malignant neoplasms of liver/intrahepatic bile ducts
    - Liver cell carcinoma, hepatoblastoma, angiosarcoma of liver (Kupffer cell sarcoma), other sarcomas of liver, ...
- ❖ **Anatomic specificity**
  - Example: Breast
    - Nipple and areola, central portion, upper-inner, lower-inner, upper-outer, lower-outer, axillary tail, **overlapping sites**
- ❖ **Sex:** male or female (breast)
- ❖ **Laterality:** applies to many diagnoses



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

**Lymphomas:** 353 diagnosis codes for lymphomas alone

- ❖ **Type:** Hodgkins, follicular, non-follicular, T/NK-cell, etc.
- ❖ **Histology:** Nodular sclerosis, mixed cellularity, lymphocyte-rich, etc.
- ❖ **Anatomic site:** intra-thoracic lymph nodes, spleen, intrapelvic, etc.

**Malignant Neoplasm of Esophagus: anatomic description**

- ❖ ICD-9 terms
  - “Cervical, thoracic and abdominal” esophagus eliminated
- ❖ ICD-10 terminology
  - Upper third, middle third, lower third, **overlapping sites**

**Malignant Neoplasm of Kidney**

- ❖ ICD-9 (2 codes)
  - Renal pelvis
  - Other than renal pelvis
- ❖ ICD-10 (6 codes)
  - Renal pelvis (3)
    - Right, left or unspecified
  - Other than renal pelvis (3)
    - Right, left or unspecified