



ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Pathology

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, ...
 - Example: Hemolytic anemias: ICD-10 subtypes: anemia due to enzyme disorders, thalassemia, sickle-cell disorders, other hereditary hemolytic anemias, acquired
- ❖ **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



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**

ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Pathology

Root operation – the intent of your procedure (common examples)

- **Drainage** – paracentesis, aspiration, etc.
- **Excision [Biopsy]**

Body part – the specific body part (or subsection thereof) addressed in an procedure (chest tube place in R pleural space)

Approach – open, percutaneous

Device – describe any device(s) left in the patient at the conclusion of the procedure

Qualifier – if aspiration is “diagnostic”, document.

