

Diagnosis code requirements for cancer diagnoses

Accurate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code assignment for a cancer diagnosis requires clarification of the condition's status as active or historical. ICD-10-CM criteria for coding an active cancer diagnosis include documenting any one of the following criteria:

- Evidence of current disease (malignant cells or tissue are present)
 - Location/Site(s)
 - Primary, secondary or metastatic disease
 - In situ
 - Cell type, stage, or grade
- The patient is receiving treatment for cancer
 - Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, brachytherapy or other active treatment
 - Hormonal therapy for treatment or palliative purposes
- The patient is unable to receive or declines treatment for cancer
 - Patient status prohibits active treatment
 - Patient declines active treatment

Cancer must be documented as a **history of cancer** if criteria for an active cancer diagnosis is not met. This is an important distinction because active cancer diagnoses assign a risk factor coefficient to patient's risk score while history of cancer diagnoses do not. Patients with a "history of cancer" diagnosis should continue to receive surveillance of the condition as recommended in clinical practice guidelines for the disease.

Leukemia and multiple myeloma are the only cancers that have a description of "in remission" or "in relapse" in their ICD-10-CM diagnosis categories. Providers must clearly state that status in documentation of the diagnosis when it is present.

In the current V28 CMS HCC coding model, there are seven HCC categories within the cancer category. Metastatic disease is the highest within the hierarchies. When present, metastasis should be clearly stated to support the ICD-10-CM codes associated with the condition. The **CMS Medicare Advantage V28 risk model** (table below) includes a hierarchy within the seven HCC categories.

HCC Category Number	HCC description	Hierarchs
17	Cancer Metastatic to Lung, Liver, Brain, and Other Organs; Acute Myeloid Leukemia Except Promyelocytic	18, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23

18	Cancer Metastatic to Bone, Other and Unspecified Metastatic Cancer; Acute Leukemia Except Myeloid	19, 20, 21, 22 & 23
19	Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Multiple Myeloma, and Other Cancers	20, 21, 22 & 23
20	Lung and Other Severe Cancers	21, 22 & 23
21	Lymphoma and other severe cancers	22 & 23
22	Bladder, Colorectal and other Cancers	23
23	Prostate, Breast and other Cancers and Tumors	