

Molina Healthcare

Coding Education

Documenting and Coding Cancer



My patient with prostate cancer is disease free after prostatectomy and I am doing frequent PSA's to monitor. Is it appropriate to code for prostate cancer?

No!

Cancer should only be coded when your patient:

- 1) Is receiving active treatment (surveillance with no evidence of disease does not count)
- 2) Has active disease, treated or not

If neither of the above are true, the most appropriate documentation usually consists of "history of cancer", using a V code.

**The example above is using a specific type of cancer, prostate cancer, but this example is relevant for any type of cancer.*

Documentation Examples:

Initial Diagnosis

- 50 year old male with new diagnosis of prostate cancer
Assessment: Prostate CA, biopsy positive Gleason 6.
 - **ICD-9 Code:** 185
 - **ICD-10 Code:** C61

Plan: See urologist on Friday

OR

Established Diagnosis

- 60 year old male with prostate cancer
Assessment: Prostate CA, undergoing radiation
 - **ICD-9 Code:** 185
 - **ICD-10 Code:** C61**Plan:** Continue treatment

History of Prostate Cancer

- **Codes that identify "history of":**
 - **ICD-9 Code:** V10.46
 - **ICD-10 Code:** Z85.46

Have Questions?

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