

## Risk Coding Tips and Tools Active Neoplasms

### Defining the status:

Cancer is considered active when there is active treatment.

- Active treatment or management includes:
  - Current radiation, chemotherapy (oral or intravenous), or other antineoplastic drug therapy
  - Current pathology/radiology revealing malignancy
  - Newly diagnosed and awaiting treatment
  - Refusing treatment, or opting for watchful waiting
- The malignancy has been completely or partially excised and the patient is still receiving ongoing curative treatment

### Document the condition:

- Type and location of cancer (Primary and any secondary metastases)
- Status (active or historical)

### Document *at least one* of the following to support an active diagnosis:

- Current treatment or plan to start treatment with:
  - Chemotherapy - Radiation - Antineoplastic drugs
- Refusal of treatment or watchful waiting
- Planned radiological scans to monitor progression of disease
- Planned excision/surgery to site
- Adjuvant therapy that is *curative* (must be stated as so)

### Physician Documentation Examples

In both Examples 1 and 2, **Active** neoplasms would be coded.

#### Example 1:

82-year-old woman with invasive ductal carcinoma of left breast, pathology confirms diagnosis, she is choosing not to treat due to age.

#### Example 2:

47-year-old woman with breast cancer of the right breast, mastectomy of right breast 2/18/2023, currently undergoing radiation of the site.

#### References:

Premera BCBS of Alaska. (2022). *Cancer: Active vs. historical*. Premera.com.

<https://www.premera.com/documents/047551.pdf>

CMS. (2023). *ICD-10-CM Official guidelines for coding and reporting FY 2023*. CMS.gov.

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2023-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines-updated-01/11/2023.pdf>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at  
[www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources](http://www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources).

You can also contact us at [RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com](mailto:RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com) for additional questions or support needs.