

Risk Adjustment Coding Guidance

Cancer

Context

CareSource reviews provider documentation to ensure the accuracy of diagnoses codes reported. Recent reviews have demonstrated an opportunity to improve the accuracy of ICD-10-CM codes reported for services rendered specific to cancer diagnoses.

Scenario

1. A male, age 65, had his prostate removed in 2011 due to prostate cancer. On March 3, 2020, he comes in for his yearly follow-up visit. The documentation in the chart states: "history of prostate cancer - prostatectomy in June of 2011, here for annual check-up. No complaints. PSA result 0.04. No urinary complaints or concerns. Follow up in one year."
2. A female, age 57, presents to the office for follow-up post mastectomy. On June 7, 2020, the documentation in the chart states: "history of breast cancer, s/p mastectomy in October of 2018. Completed radiation and chemo in April of 2019. Currently taking Letrozole through June of 2028. Tolerating medication well."

Coding Guidance

1. In the scenario described above, applying the appropriate Z85 code, in this instance Z85.46 to the claim is the correct code to apply. Applying an active cancer code to the claim C61 (prostate cancer) when documentation does not indicate active treatment, or no options are left for treatment, is inappropriate in Coding Guidance 1.
2. In this scenario, applying the ICD-10-CM code C50.919 (malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of unspecified female breast) to the claim is appropriate because the cancer is being treated and is considered to be "active" and not a "history of" due to the active treatment for Coding Guidance 2.

Per the ICD-19-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, 2020

When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site and there is no further treatment directed to that site and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy at that site, a code from the Z85, personal history of malignant neoplasm should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy.

Importance

Complete, specific and accurate coding helps to ensure CareSource is able to connect our members, your patients, to appropriate disease management and case management resources.

Questions

For questions about risk adjustment coding, please send your inquiries to:

raprovidereducation@caresource.com

Source

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2020

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