

# Cancer

## Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

December 2025

**For coding education questions**, email [CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com](mailto:CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com).

It's important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your patients with Cigna Healthcare®-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,<sup>1</sup> while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need. For additional information and resources, visit the Cigna Healthcare Individual & Family Plans page at [CignaforHCP.com/IFP](https://CignaforHCP.com/IFP).

*The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with cancer. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.*

### Definition<sup>2</sup>

For purposes of this guide, the words cancer, malignancy, and neoplasm will be used interchangeably.

- **Primary malignancy** is defined as an initial cancer. It is usually named by the cell type affected or the origin of malignancy.
- **Secondary malignancy** is defined as the metastasis of a primary lesion.
- **Active cancer** is a known malignancy presently undergoing current treatment such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hormonal therapy, or no treatment (patient's choice).
- **History of cancer** is when a primary malignancy was previously excised or eradicated, and there is no further treatment directed to that site and no evidence of an existing primary malignancy.
- Document history of cancer or resolved cancer in the past medical history section of the patient's chart.
- **Cancer in remission** is when there is a decrease or disappearance of signs or symptoms of cancer.
  - **Partial remission:** Some but not all signs and symptoms of cancer have disappeared.
  - **Complete remission:** All signs and symptoms of cancer have disappeared, although cancer still may be in the body (*applicable to leukemia, multiple myeloma, and malignant plasma cell neoplasm*).

### Documentation and coding considerations

- International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) adds levels of specificity for:
  - Active condition or history.
  - Laterality (right or left).
  - Gender (male or female).
  - Primary or secondary neoplasms.
- Documented metastasis can mean "spread to" or "spread from" without linkage documentation.
- Secondary cancers must be linked to the primary cancer if they are related.
- Document:
  - Metastasis that occurs after resolution of the initial cancer.
  - The original cancer as history of cancer if resolved (use Z code).
  - The metastasis as secondary cancer by site if active, and document the primary cancer as history if resolved.
  - When both the original and secondary cancers are active.
  - Long-term use treatment medications.
  - A stem cell or bone marrow transplant, if applicable.
  - If the cancer has achieved remission

**Note:** Whether to document cancer as "active" or "history of / resolved cancer" is dependent on the provider's clinical decision-making. Providers should use their own clinical discretion when documenting a cancer status based on the individual patient and treatment plan.

<sup>1</sup> Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.

<sup>2</sup> "NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms." National Cancer Institute (NCI). Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms>.

## Neoplasms

Description	Primary ICD-10 code	Secondary ICD-10 code	Personal history Z code
<b>Malignancies – 4th or 5th character indicates site.</b> See ICD-10 Manual for 4th and 5th characters.			
Bladder	C67.0-	C79.11	Z85.51
Brain	C71.-	C79.31	Z85.841
Breast	C50.-	C79.81	Z85.3
Cervix uteri	C53.-	C79.82	Z85.41
Colon	C18.-	C78.5	Z85.038
Kidney, except renal pelvis	C64.-	C79.00	Z85.52-
Lung and bronchus	C34.-	C78.0-	Z85.1-
Malignant melanoma of skin	C43.-	C79.2	Z85.820
Pancreatic	C25.9	C78.89	Z85.07
Prostate	C61	C79.82	Z85.46
Skin, site unspecified	C43.9	C79.2	Z85.828
Trachea	C33	C78.39	Z85.1-

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters to use
<b>C91.00</b>	Acute lymphoblastic leukemia, not having achieved remission	
<b>C92.-</b>	Myeloid leukemia	Use additional characters for specificity.
<b>C81.-</b>	Hodgkin's lymphoma	Use additional characters for specificity.
<b>C85.-</b>	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	Use additional characters for specificity.
<b>C90.00</b>	Multiple myeloma, not having achieved remission	Use 6th character for type of agent.
<b>C80.-</b>	Malignant neoplasm, unspecified	Use additional characters for specificity
<b>C79.9</b>	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified site	
<b>Z79.63</b>	Long-term (current) use of chemotherapeutic agent	Use 6th character for type of agent.
<b>Z79.810</b>	Long-term (current) use of selective estrogen receptor modulators	
<b>Z79.811</b>	Long-term (current) use of aromatase inhibitors	
<b>Z79.818</b>	Long-term (current) use of other agents affecting estrogen receptors and levels	
<b>Z85.-</b>	Personal history of neoplasm, specified conditions	Use additional characters for specificity
<b>Z85.9</b>	Personal history of neoplasm, unspecified	
<b>Z86.-</b>	Personal history of neoplasm, in situ	Use additional characters for specificity
<b>Z92.21</b>	Personal history of antineoplastic chemotherapy	
<b>Z92.3</b>	Personal history of irradiation	
<b>Z94.81</b>	Bone marrow transplant status	
<b>Z94.84</b>	Stem cell transplant status	