ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Oncology

ICD-10 Neoplasm Coding (general):

- Specific anatomical site (including laterality)
- Whether primary or secondary site
- Behavior of the neoplasm
- Cell type or subtype
- Reason for admission (*very important to document*)

Note: there is a new anatomic category available for coders, if a lesion overlaps two or more contiguous designated sites (see breast below)

- Such malignancies can only be coded correctly if the physician identifies that lesion is overlapping multiple sites

Reason for Code Expansion in ICD-10:

- **Pathophysiologic specificity**
  - Example: malignant neoplasms of liver/intrahepatic bile ducts
    - Liver cell carcinoma, hepatoblastoma, angiosarcoma of liver (Kupffer cell sarcoma), other sarcomas of liver, ...

- **Anatomic specificity**
  - Example: Breast
    - Nipple and areola, central portion, upper-inner, lower-inner, upper-outer, lower-outer, axillary tail, **overlapping sites**

- **Sex**: male or female (breast)
- **Laterality**: applies to many diagnoses

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A primary malignant neoplasm that overlaps two or more contiguous sites should be classified to the subcategory/code .8 (“overlapping lesion”), unless the combination is specifically indexed elsewhere

**Lymphomas:** 353 diagnosis codes for lymphomas alone

- **Type:** Hodgkins, follicular, non-follicular, T/NK-cell, etc.
- **Histology:** Nodular sclerosis, mixed cellularity, lymphocyte-rich, etc.
- **Anatomic site:** intra-thoracic lymph nodes, spleen, intrapelvic, etc.

**Malignant Neoplasm of Esophagus: anatomic description**

- ICD-9 terms
  - “Cervical, thoracic and abdominal” esophagus eliminated
- ICD-10 terminology
  - Upper third, middle third, lower third, *overlapping sites*

**Malignant Neoplasm of Kidney**

- ICD-9 (2 codes)
  - Renal pelvis
  - Other than renal pelvis
- ICD-10 (6 codes)
  - Renal pelvis (3)
    - Right, left or unspecified
  - Other than renal pelvis (3)
    - Right, left or unspecified