

All Good Things Must Come to an End

by Cindy Parman, CPC, CPC-H, RCC

The last update for ICD-9-CM was effective Oct. 1, 2011—the next change to diagnosis coding will occur on Oct. 1, 2013, when we officially transition to ICD-10-CM. As of the Oct. 1, 2011, update, the ICD-9-CM code set was “frozen” with the current codes and guidelines, although a few codes may be added next year for new diseases or conditions discovered during the next 12 months. So, as physicians, hospitals, and cancer centers prepare for the transition to ICD-10, here are the final ICD-9 diagnosis codes to add to charge tickets, EMR systems, and charge description masters. (Refer to Tables 1 and 2, for a summary of the code changes.)

New Coding Guidelines

In addition to specific diagnosis code updates and changes, some modifications have been made to the *ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting*.¹ For example, a new guideline has been added on documenting complications of care:

Code assignment is based on the provider's documentation of the relationship between the condition and the care or procedure. The guideline extends to any complications of care, regardless of the chapter the code is located in. It is important to note that not all conditions that occur during or following medical care or surgery are classified as complications. There must be a cause-and-effect relationship between the care provided and the condition, and an indication in the documentation that it is a complication. Query the provider for clarification, if the complication is not clearly documented.

An additional code identifying the complication should be assigned

with codes in categories 996-999, Complications of Surgical and Medical Care NEC, when the additional code provides greater specificity as to the nature of the condition. If the complication code fully describes the condition, no additional code is necessary.

As indicated in the new guideline, physician documentation of patient medical conditions, including whether the condition treated is a complication of radiation or medical oncology treatment is essential.

In addition, the guidelines for cancer-related anemia have been reworded, although there does not appear to be any alteration of the intent of the coding instruction. The updated guideline states:

If anemia in neoplastic disease and anemia due to antineoplastic chemotherapy are both documented, assign codes for both conditions.

When assigning code 285.22, Anemia in neoplastic disease, it is also necessary to assign the neoplasm code that is responsible for the anemia. Code 285.22 is for use for anemia that is due to the malignancy, not for anemia due to antineoplastic chemotherapy drugs. Assign the appropriate code for anemia due to antineoplastic chemotherapy.



Neoplasms

The ICD-9-CM Table of Neoplasms listing for skin neoplasms has undergone significant revision. Category 173, other malignant neoplasm of skin, previously included 10 subcategory codes that described skin malignancies of specific anatomic sites. Effective Oct. 1, 2011, this category was expanded to 40 codes. The current listings for anatomic site have been further subdivided into five-digit subclassification codes that list different cancer types. For example, the four new diagnosis codes for malignant neoplasm scalp and skin of neck include:

- **173.40:** Unspecified malignant neoplasm of scalp and skin of neck
- **173.41:** Basal cell carcinoma of scalp and skin of neck
- **173.42:** Squamous cell carcinoma of scalp and skin of neck
- **173.49:** Other specified malignant neoplasm of scalp and skin of neck.

Due to the increase in the number of diagnosis codes for skin malignancies, cross references throughout the *ICD-9-CM Manual*, Includes Notes and Excludes Notes have been updated to include the expanded number of available diagnosis codes.

There has also been a slight reclassification affecting coding for a mesentery metastasis of a neuroendocrine tumor. This condition was previously coded to 209.71, but now will be reported with diagnosis code 209.74, secondary neuroendocrine tumor of peritoneum.

Disease of Blood

Thalassemia is a blood disorder passed down through families in which the body

Table 1. 2012 New Oncology/Hematology Diagnosis Codes

Code	Description
173.00	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of lip
173.01	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of lip
173.02	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of lip
173.09	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of lip
173.10	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of eyelid, including canthus
173.11	Basal cell carcinoma of eyelid, including canthus
173.12	Squamous cell carcinoma of eyelid, including canthus
173.19	Other specified malignant neoplasm of eyelid, including canthus
173.20	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of ear and external auditory canal
173.21	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of ear and external auditory canal
173.22	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of ear and external auditory canal
173.29	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of ear and external auditory canal
173.30	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of other and unspecified parts of face
173.31	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of other and unspecified parts of face
173.32	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of other and unspecified parts of face
173.39	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of other & unspecified parts of face
173.40	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of scalp and skin of neck
173.41	Basal cell carcinoma of scalp and skin of neck
173.42	Squamous cell carcinoma of scalp and skin of neck
173.49	Other specified malignant neoplasm of scalp and skin of neck
173.50	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of trunk, except scrotum
173.51	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of trunk, except scrotum
173.52	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of trunk, except scrotum
173.59	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of trunk, except scrotum
173.60	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of upper limb, including shoulder
173.61	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of upper limb, including shoulder
173.62	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of upper limb, including shoulder
173.69	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of upper limb, including shoulder
173.70	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of lower limb, including hip
173.71	Basal cell carcinoma of skin of lower limb, including hip
173.72	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of lower limb, including hip
173.79	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of lower limb, including hip
173.80	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of other specified sites of skin
173.81	Basal cell carcinoma of other specified sites of skin
173.82	Squamous cell carcinoma of other specified sites of skin
173.89	Other specified malignant neoplasm of other specified sites of skin
173.90	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin, site unspecified
173.91	Basal cell carcinoma of skin, site unspecified
173.92	Squamous cell carcinoma of skin, site unspecified
173.99	Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin, site unspecified
282.40	Thalassemia, unspecified
282.43	Alpha thalassemia
282.44	Beta thalassemia
282.45	Delta-beta thalassemia
282.46	Thalassemia minor
282.47	Hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia
284.11	Antineoplastic chemotherapy induced pancytopenia
284.12	Other drug induced pancytopenia
284.19	Other pancytopenia
286.52	Acquired hemophilia
286.53	Antiphospholipid antibody with hemorrhagic disorder
286.59	Other hemorrhagic disorder due to intrinsic circulating anticoagulants, antibodies, or inhibitors
358.30	Lambert-Eaton syndrome, unspecified
358.31	Lambert-Eaton syndrome in neoplastic disease
358.39	Lambert-Eaton syndrome in other diseases classified elsewhere
996.88	Complications of transplanted organ, stem cell
999.41	Anaphylactic reaction due to administration of blood and blood products
999.51	Other serum reaction due to administration of blood and blood products
V87.02	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to uranium

makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in excessive destruction of red blood cells, which leads to anemia. Joining the three existing ICD-9 codes for this condition, six new diagnosis codes were added effective Oct. 1, 2011, to describe specific types of thalassemia:

- **282.40:** Unspecified thalassemia
- **282.43:** Alpha thalassemia
- **282.44:** Beta thalassemia
- **282.45:** Delta-beta thalassemia
- **282.46:** Thalassemia minor
- **282.47:** Hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia.

Pancytopenia

In a recent ICD-9-CM code update, pancytopenia received a unique diagnosis code, but now that code will be subdivided to report the event that precipitated this condition. New codes include: **284.11**, antineoplastic chemotherapy induced pancytopenia; **284.12**, other drug induced pancytopenia; and **284.19**, other pancytopenia.

Lambert-Eaton Syndrome

Eaton-Lambert syndrome, also called Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS), is a rare disorder affecting the muscles and nerves. LEMS is known to be associated with small cell lung cancer. It may also be associated with cancers such as lymphoma, T-cell leukemia, non-small cell lung cancer, prostate cancer, and thymoma. To accurately report this condition, a new subcategory has been added to the myoneural disorders category. The new codes include: **358.30**, Lambert-Eaton syndrome, unspecified; **358.31**, Lambert-Eaton syndrome in neoplastic disease; and **358.39**, Lambert-Eaton syndrome in other diseases classified elsewhere.

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New Codes for Complications

The 2012 edition of the *ICD-9-CM Manual* includes a new code for complications after a stem cell transplant, **996.88**. In addition, two new codes have been added for reactions after a transfusion:

- **999.41:** Anaphylactic reaction due to the administration of blood and blood products
- **999.51:** Other serum reaction due to administration of blood and blood products.

Summary

The final update to ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes provides an opportunity to review existing code capture documents and programs. In addition to the new codes and verbiage changes listed in this article, there are many

Table 2. 2012 Invalid Oncology/Hematology Diagnosis Codes

Code	Description
173.0	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of lip
173.1	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of eyelid, including canthus
173.2	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of ear and external auditory canal
173.3	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of other and unspecified parts of face
173.4	Other malignant neoplasm of scalp and skin of neck
173.5	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of trunk, except scrotum
173.6	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of upper limb, including shoulder
173.7	Other malignant neoplasm of skin of lower limb, including hip
173.8	Other malignant neoplasm of other specified sites of skin
173.9	Other malignant neoplasm of skin, site unspecified
284.1	Pancytopenia
286.5	Hemorrhagic disorder due to intrinsic circulating anticoagulants
999.4	Anaphylactic shock due to serum
999.5	Other serum reaction, not elsewhere classified

other new diagnosis codes that are not oncology-specific, clarifying verbiage and descriptor changes that were effective Oct. 1, 2011. This updated reporting information is essential for medical necessity information, capturing patient diagnoses for research purposes, quality improvement programs, reimbursement, and tracking patient care. 📄

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References

- ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/9cmguidelines2011.pdf>.



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