

# Active vs. Historical Status of Malignancies



## Active:

A malignancy is considered active\* in the calendar years during which the initial diagnostic workup or any treatment takes place. If the patient chooses not to receive treatment, the malignancy remains active for the remainder of the patient's life.

### Types of on-going treatments that support an active\* malignancy diagnosis:

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Bone marrow or stem cell transplantation
- Hormonal or immunotherapy
- Adjuvant therapy, including tamoxifen or anastrozole for breast cancer; and leuprolide or bicalutamide for prostate cancer

## Historical:

Once all treatments are complete, malignancies are no longer considered active. They can then be documented in the chart as "history of".

**Note:** Long-term surveillance by a specialist or regular testing, such as PSA, to monitor for recurrence of a historical malignancy doesn't qualify it as being active.

## Exceptions:

The only exceptions to the rule are certain hematological malignancies, which should be documented as "in remission" after treatment is completed.

- Leukemia (all types)\*
- Multiple Myeloma\*

\*Risk-adjusting diagnosis

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are subject to change. It's the responsibility of the provider to ensure that current ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes and the current ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are reviewed prior to the submission of claims.

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