

Prostate cancer –Active or History of ?

Defining the purpose of treatment

- **Curative** - to treat cancer.
- **Palliative** - to relieve symptoms and reduce suffering caused by cancer without effecting a cure. It also may be given when there is evidence of metastatic or recurrent/metastatic disease.
- **Preventative or Prophylactic** - to keep cancer from reoccurring in a person who has already been treated for cancer or to keep cancer from occurring in a person who has never had cancer but is at increased risk for developing it due to family history or other factors.

Active cancer is coded as current if the record clearly states there is active treatment. (*Curative*)

The following are examples of Active Cancer Management options:

Surgical removal of the prostate (prostatectomy)

- Cryosurgery (freezing cancer cells with cold metal probes)
- Chemotherapy
- Hormonal therapy
- External radiation
- Internal radiation (radioactive seed implantation)

Within 10 months of the DOS
In order to use the implants as DSP the procedure date is required.

Cancer treatment is not limited to chemo and radiation. Other documentation that could support a diagnosis of cancer:

- Refusal of treatment by the patient
- Status of terminal cancer. The patient may be in hospice/palliative care. (*Palliative*)
- Planned/planning surgical intervention (removal of tumor)
- Immunotherapy through IV infusion
- The provider is not recommending treatment due to the patient's health or other contributing factors.
- Active surveillance (also called watchful waiting)
 - May be for early stage/slow growing cancers such as prostate cancer, patients who want a break from treatment side effects.
 - or those who exhausted all other treatment options.

When “NED” or “history of” terms are used to describe the current state of the cancer a biological adjuvant drug would be considered prophylactic treatment. The cancer would then be considered history of and be coded with a Z-code (*Prophylactic-Not HCC*)

Documentation examples below

- Ex: “Prostate CA being Tx with Lupron per Onc” shows *Active cancer* - use active code.
- Ex: “Prostate CA, NED, still on Lupron, monitored Q6 months by Onc” *History of Cancer* - use Z Code.

Referral to a specialist provider will be considered active treatment only when a type of treatment is specified. (e.g., chemotherapy, radiation, medication, surgery)

- Example: Patient will follow up with oncology for chemotherapy *Acceptable* to capture cancer as current.
- Example: Patient will follow up with oncology *Not acceptable* to capture cancer as current.