

Liver cancer is a cancer that forms in the liver. The cells and tissue in the liver grow and divide in an uncontrollable way creating a tumor and/or tumors.

Types of liver cancer:

- **Hepatocellular** - is the most common type of primary liver cancer. Hepatocellular carcinoma occurs most often in people with chronic liver diseases, such as cirrhosis caused by hepatitis B or hepatitis C infection.
- **Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma** - This cancer occurs when cells in the bile duct divide and mutate creating tumor or mass. People born with choledochal cyst have an increased risk of developing intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.
- **Hepatoblastoma** - A primary malignant liver tumor that present in children under four years of age. It is usually painless and is a tumor of embryonic origin.

Signs and Symptoms

- Unhealthy weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Upper abdominal pain
- Swelling in the abdominal area
- Generalized weakness and fatigue.
- Nausea and vomiting
- White or chalky stools
- Jaundice

Risk Factors

- Chronic infection with HBV or HCV
- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Inherited liver diseases
- Diabetes

- Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
- Exposure to aflatoxins
- Excessive alcohol consumptions

Diagnostic Testing

- Blood tests
- Imaging tests (ultrasound, CT Scan, or MRI)
- Biopsy of liver tissue

Treatment

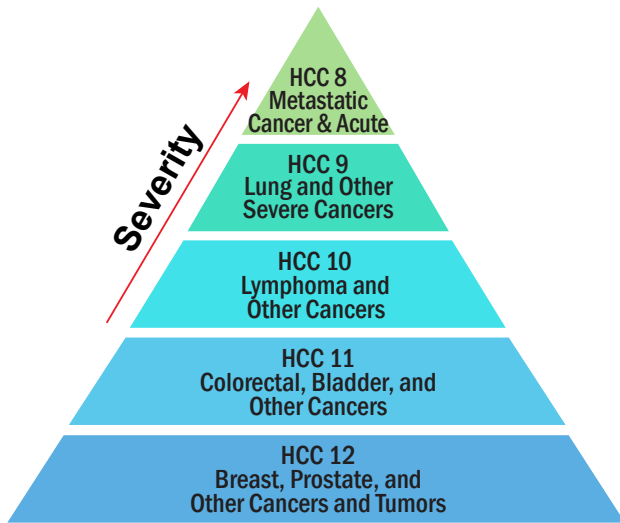
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Immunotherapy- cancer treatment that helps the immune system to fight the cancer.
- Curative care- treat cancer.
- Palliative care- Relieve symptoms and reduce the pain and suffering caused by the cancer without effecting the care. When there is evidence of metastatic or recurrent/metastatic disease this may be given.
- Surgery to remove tumor in the liver.
- Liver transplant surgery
- Radiofrequency ablation
- Cryoablation
- Alcohol injection
- Chemoembolization
- Radiation beads placed in the liver
- Targeted drug therapy

Medicare Hierarchal Condition Categories (HCC)

Hierarchical condition category (HCC) coding is a risk-adjustment model designed to estimate future health care costs for patients. This model filters ICD-10CM codes into diagnosis groups (DxGs), and then into Conditions Categories (CCs). Hierarchies or

families are placed to gain an HCC numeric code, which translates to a risk adjustment factor (RAF) value. Each diagnosis code found in the model, as a stand-alone diagnosis code or within a family or hierarchy, carries a value through RAF, but this value can change if the patient has other influencing factors such as ESRD, hospice, or are dual-eligible. Families or hierarchies set a value based on severity of illness, with more severe diagnoses carrying the overall risk score for that family. Diagnoses within families or hierarchies are inclusive of one another, while any additional diagnoses from other hierarchies or stand-alone diagnoses are additive and increase each patient's overall risk score.

Liver Cancer is a condition that falls within the category "Lung and other severe cancers" (HCC 9) with an average RAF Score of 1.010.



ICD 10 Data	Description
C22.0	Liver cell carcinoma
C22.1	Intrahepatic bile duct carcinoma
C22.2	Hepatoblastoma
C22.3	Angiosarcoma of liver
C22.4	Other sarcomas of liver
C22.7	Other specified carcinomas of liver
C22.8	Malignant neoplasm of liver, primary, unspecified as to type
C22.9	Malignant neoplasm of liver, not specified as primary or secondary

C78.7 Secondary malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile duct

C7B.02 Secondary carcinoid tumors of the liver

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

SOAP Notes documentation tips:

- **Subjective** – Document the presence or absence of any current symptoms related to the liver cancer.
- **Objective** – Document signs and symptoms or conditions and labs/test results related to the liver cancer.
- **Assessment** – Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the ICD-10 nomenclature to the highest specificity.
- **Plan** – Document and link all medications used to treat the liver cancer. Detail any referrals, consultations, labs, or diagnostic testing requested.

Coding Liver Cancer

- Current - Cancer is coded as active if the medical record states there is active treatment for curing or palliating the cancer. Statements such as "Cancer is present but unresponsive to treatment," "The current treatment plan is observation or waiting," "patient refused treatment" are supporting factors that cancer is active.
- In remission - The National Cancer institute defines "in remission" as this: "A decrease in or disappearance of signs or symptoms of cancer."
 - Partial remission- some but not all signs of cancer have ceased.
 - Complete Remission- All signs and symptoms of cancer have ceased.
- History of cancer- Anytime a record describes the cancer as "history of", "NED or No evidence of disease", "cancer free" indicates the cancer is not current.

Always Remember

- Code the most specific type of liver cancer
- Liver cancer to be coded as a present condition showing supported documentation and medication.
- History of Liver of cancer code is Z85.05
- If liver transplant is documented the status of must be coded Z94.4
- When liver cancer is a result of another cancer metastasizing, code it as a secondary cancer using code C78.7 and show support for treatment.
- Anytime that the liver cancer is not specified as primary or secondary the appropriate code to assign is C22.9
- Treatment for another primary cancer and it metastasized to the liver can be support for the liver cancer treatment.