

Metastatic cancer is the spread of cancer from one part of the body to another. The cells of the metastatic (or secondary) cancer look like the cells of the original (or primary) cancer.

Primary versus secondary site:

The terms “metastatic” and “metastasis” are often used ambiguously in describing neoplasms, sometimes meaning that the site named is primary and sometimes meaning it is secondary.

- “Metastatic to” means the site mentioned is secondary. For example, “metastatic carcinoma to the lung” is coded as secondary malignant neoplasm of the lung (C78.0-).
- “Metastatic from” means the site mentioned is the primary site. For example, “Metastatic carcinoma from the breast” indicates the breast is the primary site (C50.9-). An additional code for the metastatic site also should be assigned.
 - Multiple metastatic sites – When two or more sites are described in the diagnosis as “metastatic,” each of the stated sites should be coded as secondary or metastatic. A code also should be assigned for the primary site when this information is available; it should be coded as C80.1 when it is not.
 - Single metastatic site – When only one site is described as metastatic without any further qualification and no more definitive information can be obtained by reviewing the medical record.

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips:

SOAP Notes documentation tips:

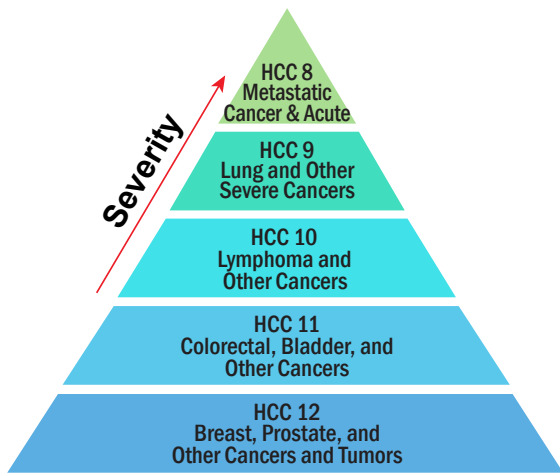
- **Subjective** – The subjective section of the office note should document the primary site as well as the site that it metastasized to.

- **Objective** – The objective section should include any current associated physical exam findings and results of diagnostic testing with clear dates and timelines.
- **Assessment** – In the final diagnostic statement, describe the current state of the Primary and Secondary Cancer to the highest level of specificity.
- **Plan** – Document a specific and concise treatment plan for both Primary and Secondary Cancer SEPARATELY, including date of next appointment.

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.

Metastatic Cancer include conditions that falls within the categories “Metastatic Cancer and Acute Leukemia” and “Lymphoma and Other Cancers” (HCC 8, 10) with an average RAF Score of 2.566 and 0.717 respectively.



Coding Metastatic Cancer

There are Fifty-Two (52) ICD - 10CM applicable codes to use for coding Metastatic Cancer.

ICD 10 CODE DESCRIPTION

C77.0	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes of head, face and neck
C77.1	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of intrathoracic lymph nodes
C77.2	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of intra-abdominal lymph nodes
C77.3	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of axilla and upper limb lymph nodes
C77.4	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of inguinal and lower limb lymph nodes
C77.5	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of intrapelvic lymph nodes
C77.8	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes of multiple regions
C77.9	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph node, unspecified
C78.00	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified lung

C78.01	Secondary malignant neoplasm of right lung
C78.02	Secondary malignant neoplasm of left lung
C78.1	Secondary malignant neoplasm of mediastinum
C78.2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of pleura
C78.30	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified respiratory organ
C78.39	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other respiratory organs
C78.4	Secondary malignant neoplasm of small intestine
C78.5	Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum
C78.6	Secondary malignant neoplasm of retroperitoneum and peritoneum
C78.7	Secondary malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile duct
C78.80	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified digestive organ
C78.89	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other digestive organs
C79.00	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified kidney and renal pelvis
C79.01	Secondary malignant neoplasm of right kidney and renal pelvis
C79.02	Secondary malignant neoplasm of left kidney and renal pelvis
C79.10	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified urinary organs
C79.11	Secondary malignant neoplasm of bladder
C79.19	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other urinary organs
C79.2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of skin
C79.31	Secondary malignant neoplasm of brain
C79.32	Secondary malignant neoplasm of cerebral meninges

C79.40	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of nervous system
C79.49	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other parts of nervous system
C79.51	Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone
C79.52	Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone marrow
C79.60	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified ovary
C79.61	Secondary malignant neoplasm of right ovary
C79.62	Secondary malignant neoplasm of left ovary
C79.70	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified adrenal gland
C79.71	Secondary malignant neoplasm of right adrenal gland
C79.72	Secondary malignant neoplasm of left adrenal gland
C79.81	Secondary malignant neoplasm of breast
C79.82	Secondary malignant neoplasm of genital organs
C79.89	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other specified sites
C79.9	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified site
C7B.00	Secondary carcinoid tumors, unspecified site
C7B.01	Secondary carcinoid tumors of distant lymph nodes
C7B.02	Secondary carcinoid tumors of liver
C7B.03	Secondary carcinoid tumors of bone
C7B.04	Secondary carcinoid tumors of peritoneum
C7B.09	Secondary carcinoid tumors of other sites
C7B.1	Secondary Merkel cell carcinoma
C7B.8	Other secondary neuroendocrine tumors

Always Remember

- Document the primary cancer along with the metastatic cancer.
- Anytime a cancer is not known to be primary or secondary use code C80.1
- Always to code the most specific code for the secondary site.