To: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices Providers

Date: September 12, 2018

Subject: Neoplasm Disease – Current vs. Personal History

Health plan claims analysis reveals that malignant neoplasm or “active cancer” is a frequently over-coded diagnosis. It’s important that accurate coding and correct documentation are used to distinguish between an active malignancy versus personal history of a malignancy. As you know, complete and correct coding is important for many reasons, including:

- It helps reduce future medical record inquiries for audits to support the reporting of chronic conditions.
- Adherence to ICD-10-CM coding conventions for diagnosis reporting is required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.
- It is vital for managed care organizations, such as AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices, to have accurate and complete neoplasm diagnosis data on file to provide optimum care management for health plan Participants.

Guidelines

Accurate coding of neoplastic disease requires understanding of the CMS ICD-10 CM Official Guidelines in the ICD-10 Manual. Please follow the quick reference guide and examples below when coding for Neoplasm Disease:

- **Active/Current Malignant Neoplasm** - Assign the correct active neoplasm code for the primary malignancy until treatment is completed. This applies even when the primary malignancy has been excised but further treatment (e.g., radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or additional surgery) is directed to that site.

- **Personal History Of** - When a primary malignancy has been excised or eradicated and there is no further treatment of the malignancy directed to that site, and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy, a code from Category Z85, indicating there is a personal history of malignant neoplasm should be used for the site of the former malignancy.

Note: Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma, and Malignant Plasma Cell Neoplasms - Don’t confuse personal history with “in remission”. Codes for leukemia, multiple myeloma, and malignant plasma cell neoplasms are considered active conditions and must indicate whether the condition has achieved remission. Assign a code for personal history of leukemia when the physician documents that the leukemia no longer exists. The codes for personal history and in remission are only assigned when documented by the provider.

The “ICD-10-CM Table of Neoplasms” in the Alphabetic Index of the CMS ICD-10 CM Official Guidelines in the ICD-10 Manual lists the codes for neoplasms by anatomical site. For each site, there are six columns of codes identifying whether the neoplasm is malignant, benign, in situ, uncertain or unspecified behavior. Certain benign neoplasms, such as prostatic adenomas, may be found in the specific body system chapters.

Examples

1. **Situation**: Medical documentation states patient admitted to rule out metastatic bone cancer originating from the breast. The breast cancer was treated with mastectomy and adjunct chemotherapy 3 years ago.
**Coding Example:** Report the code that corresponds with a personal history of malignant neoplasm at the former site of the cancer because the breast cancer has been treated and is not an active diagnosis of breast cancer. (Category Z85.)

2. **Situation:** A patient with metastatic bone cancer originating from breast cancer that was eradicated 3 years ago is admitted for pain management.
   
   **Example Coding Categories:**
   
   - G89 – Neoplasm related pain (acute) (chronic).
   - C79 – Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone.
   - Z85 - Personal history of malignant neoplasm.

3. **Situation:** Patient with leukemia documented as "in remission" is admitted for autologous bone marrow transplantation.
   
   **Coding Example:** Use the appropriate code to designate the type of leukemia and in remission.

---

**Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Tip Hotline:** 1-866-833-9718, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Secure and confidential. You may remain anonymous. Mandatory provider training available on-line at [www.amerihealthcaritaschc.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritaschc.com) → Providers → Training. → Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Mandatory Screening Information.