

Documentation and Coding: Thyroid Cancer

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At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet will offer guidance on how to submit diagnosis codes with greater specificity for coding the most common cancer of the endocrine system, **Thyroid Cancer**. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

C73

Malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland

*Use additional code to identify
functional activity

C79.89

Secondary malignant neoplasm
of other specified sites

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Clinical Documentation Should Include:			
Status of Condition	Types/Stages	Risk Factors	Diagnostic Testing and Treatments
Stable Improved Worsening	Papillary ■ Stages: I–IVA, IVB Follicular ■ Stages: I–IVA, IVB Medullary ■ Stages: I–IVA, IVB, or IVC Anaplastic ■ Stages: IVA, IVB, or IVC	Gender and age Radiation exposure Lacking iodine in diet Family history of thyroid cancer Overweight or obese Personal history of goiter Other conditions (e.g., Sipple syndrome (MEN2A))	CT, MRI, PET scan, ultrasound, etc. Fine needle aspiration/biopsy Surgery Chemotherapy Active surveillance Radiation/radioactive iodine therapy Thyroid hormone therapy Targeted therapy Alcohol ablation

Coding Tips

- Code **Z12.89** encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of other sites (i.e. for Thyroid cancer).
- Code **Z80.8** for a family history of malignant neoplasm of other organs or systems.
- Code **Z15.09** for Genetic susceptibility to other malignant neoplasm (i.e. for Thyroid cancer).
- Code **Z85.850** for personal history of malignant neoplasm of thyroid.
- Code **C79.89** when treatment is directed to the secondary malignant neoplasm of thyroid, followed by code **C73** primary malignant neoplasm of thyroid, if it is present/documented.
- Code **E31.22** for Multiple endocrine neoplasia [MEN] (e.g., Sipple syndrome) for patients with medullary carcinoma of the thyroid, pheochromocytomas (adrenal tumor). **Also code any associated malignancies and other conditions.**
- Identify functional activity:
 - **E05*** Thyrotoxicosis [hyperthyroidism]
 - **E07*** Other disorders of thyroid

Please note: When a malignancy exists, code the condition first, followed by codes describing risk factors and/or any prior history of malignancy.

*Requires additional digit to complete the diagnosis code

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Coding Examples

Case 1	Patient presents for follow-up of Multifocal Tall Cell Variant Papillary Thyroid Cancer, s/p Total Thyroidectomy, Central and Right Lateral Neck Dissection six months ago. She is receiving Whole Body Iodine Post Therapy two months after her thyroidectomy. What is the appropriate code assignment?
Rationale	Assign code C73 . Although the cancer was previously excised, the patient is receiving continuous treatment directed to the primary malignancy site. The primary malignancy code should be used until treatment is completed.
Case 2	Patient in remission presents for follow-up for thyroid cancer, s/p total thyroidectomy 1999. Assign the appropriate code(s).
Rationale	Assign Z85.850 as the patient is under surveillance and is not undergoing active treatment.

Questions?

Contact us at #Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section at [HFproviders.org](https://www.healthfirst.org/HFproviders.org).

References:

- <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/thyroid-cancer.html>
- <https://www.cancer.gov/types/thyroid/patient/thyroid-treatment-pdq>
- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines-updated-02012022.pdf>