

## Malignant Melanoma of Face

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for **Malignant Melanoma of Face**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for the 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 amount that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

**Malignant Melanoma of the Face**, though not rare, is a critical condition that demands immediate medical care. Timely identification and intervention greatly enhance a favorable result. Melanoma may manifest as a new mole or alterations in a pre-existing one, typically exhibiting features such as asymmetry, irregular borders, multiple colors, a diameter exceeding 6mm, or modifications in size, shape, or color.

### ICD-10 Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10-CM Codes	Description
<b>C43.30</b>	Malignant melanoma of unspecified part of face
<b>C34.31</b>	Malignant melanoma of nose
<b>C34.39</b>	Malignant melanoma of other parts of face

# Documentation and Coding

## Clinical Documentation Recommendations

Updated Status of Condition	Location	Risk Factors	Signs & Symptoms	Include Diagnostic Tests & Treatment Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stable</li><li>• Improved</li><li>• Worsening</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nose</li><li>• Cheek</li><li>• Other parts of face</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family Hx of Melanoma</li><li>• Excess Sun exposure</li><li>• Exposure to UV light</li><li>• Living closer to the equator or higher elevation</li><li>• Fair Skin Tone</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asymmetry (sides don't match)</li><li>• Border (uneven border)</li><li>• Color (one color or varying shades)</li><li>• Diameter (Large mole)</li><li>• Evolving (Changing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biopsy</li><li>• CT, MRI, or PET</li><li>• Blood work</li><li>• Surgical Removal</li><li>• Radiation</li><li>• Immunotherapy</li><li>• Following up with Dermatologist</li></ul>

## Coding Tips

- Do not code Melanoma in situ (**D03-D03.9**) with category **C43\*** - Malignant melanoma of skin
- Histological Subtype (e.g., superficial, spreading, nodular, Lentigo maligna)
- Use appropriate TNM staging and metastasis codes if applicable (e.g., **C79.XX** for distant spread).
- When primary malignancy has been excised but further treatment, such as radiation therapy, chemotherapy or adjuvant therapy is directed to that site, the primary malignancy code should be used.
- When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site and there is no further treatment directed to that site and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy at that site, a code **Z85.820** - Personal history of malignant neoplasm of skin, should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy.

\*Requires additional digits to complete the codes

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## Coding Example

<b>Case</b>	A 59-year-old female presents to the dermatology clinic with a pigmented lesion on her <b>left cheek</b> . A biopsy confirms superficial spreading malignant melanoma with a Breslow dept of 1.2mm. The lesion is confined to the skin of the face with no evidence of regional lymph node involvement or distant metastasis. The dermatologist documents a <b>final diagnosis of malignant melanoma of the face</b> and recommends surgical removal via Mohs surgery.
<b>Diagnosis Reported</b>	<b>C43.39</b> -Malignant melanoma of other parts of face
<b>Rationale</b>	<b>C43.39</b> is the correct ICD-10 code for Malignant melanoma of other parts of the face when the specific site (e.g., cheek) is known but not separately classified (as opposed to nose).

## References

- [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Malignant Melanoma](#)
- [Cleveland Clinic](#)
- [Coding Clinic Advisor](#)

## Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk\\_Adjustments\\_and\\_clinical\\_Documentation@healthfirst.org](https://twitter.com/Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

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

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