

Risk Adjustment Coding Academy- Coding Focus

Breast Cancer



Overview

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer affecting 1 in every 8 women in the United States.¹ It is the most common cause of death among Hispanic women and second most common cause of death in women of other races. The American Cancer Society estimates 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 63,410 new cases of carcinoma in situ will be diagnosed among women in 2017.² Although it is rare for men to get breast cancer, it is not uncommon. Nearly 2,600 men are diagnosed every year in the United States.³

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms of breast cancer can differ from person to person. Below are the most common warning signs:

- Lump in breast/underarm
- Pain in any area of the breast
- Redness/flaky skin of breast
- Change in size or shape breast

This list is not all inclusive as signs and symptoms may vary, and some patients may have no symptoms at all.

Preventive measures include routine screenings and annual mammograms are recommended for women age 40 and older.

Causes and Treatment

Breast cancer occurs when cells within the breast tissue grow out of control. These overgrown cells usually form a tumor which may be felt as a lump or seen on an x-ray. The tumor is determined to be malignant if the cells grow into surrounding tissues or spread (metastasize) to distant areas of the body. The overgrowth of cancerous cells can originate in any part of the breast, however, the most common location is the milk ducts.

There are two types of breast cancer: ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC). DCIS accounts for 1 of every 5 new breast cancer cases that are diagnosed.⁴ It is considered to be a noninvasive carcinoma due to the cells within the breast ducts not spreading to the breast tissue outside of the ducts. IDC is the opposite in that the cancerous cells begins in the milk ducts, but spreads outside the duct walls and into the breast tissue. If cancerous cells spread to the lymph nodes, there is a greater risk for cells to travel to the lymph system and other parts of the body.

There are several treatment options available, which include surgery, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, and radiation therapy. With early detection, breast cancer may be curable.

Coding Guidance

Active malignant neoplasms of breast for both male and female are under ICD-10 code category C50. According to the ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines, "When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site, 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 Personal history of malignant neoplasm, should be used to indicate that former site of the malignancy."⁵ Personal history of breast cancer should be coded as Z85.3.

C50 Malignant Neoplasms of Breast (HCC 12)

- C50.0* - Nipple and areola
- C50.1* - Central portion
- C50.2* - Upper-inner quad
- C50.3* - Lower-inner quad
- C50.4* - Upper-outer quad
- C50.5* - Lower-outer quad
- C50.6* - Axillary tail of breast
- C50.8* - Overlapping sites
- C50.9* - Unspecified site

- *Requires a fifth and sixth character
- 5th digit specifies gender
- __1 - Female
 - __2 - Male
- 6th digit specifies laterality
- __1 - Right
 - __2 - Left
 - __9 - Unspecified

Resources:

¹ Breast Cancer. (n.d.) Breast Cancer Symptoms. Retrieved September 14, 2017 from medlineplus.gov

² American Cancer Society. (n.d.) How Common is Breast Cancer. Retrieved September 14, 2017 from cancer.org

³ Living Beyond Breast Cancer. (n.d.) Breast Cancer in Men: The Basics. Retrieved September 14, 2017 from lbcc.org

⁴ WebMD Breast Cancer Center. (n.d.) Breast Cancer Overview. Retrieved September 14, 2017 from webmd.com

⁵ Schmidt, A.; Kenney, A.; Krawzik, K.; & Willard, P. (2016). ICD-10-CM 2017: The Complete Official Codebook. Place of publication not identified: AMA