

Risk Adjustment Coding Academy – Coding Focus

Malignant Neoplasm of Prostate



Signs and Symptoms

In its early stages, there may not be any signs or symptoms of prostate cancer. As the disease progresses and grows, the most common signs are:

- Difficulty urinating
- Decreased urine stream
- Blood in the semen or urine
- Bone, hip and pelvic area pain
- Erectile dysfunction

Many of these symptoms can also be caused by other conditions, such as benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH. Tests that screen for prostate cancer include prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood tests and digital rectal exams.

Treatment

There are multiple treatment options available for prostate cancer, and the best course of action will depend on several factors, such as the patient's overall health, how fast the cancer is growing and whether it has spread. In some instances, immediate treatment may not be necessary for those who have low-risk prostate cancer. Instead, the physician may recommend active surveillance with regular follow up testing, exams or biopsies.

Radiation therapy is another option, which may be delivered in the form of external beam radiation or by implanting radioactive seeds directly into the prostate gland, known as brachytherapy. Other treatment options include hormone therapy, chemotherapy, freezing the tissue to kill the cancer cells, (cryoablation), or surgically removing the prostate gland and surrounding tissues and lymph nodes (radical prostatectomy). Common side effects of these treatments include changes in

urination, erectile dysfunction and loss of libido.

The survival rate for patients with prostate cancer is very high, with a current 15 year survival rate of 96%. However, that number is dramatically lower for those who have stage IV prostate cancer which has spread to distant lymph nodes or other organs³.

Coding Guidance

Malignant neoplasm codes are found in chapter 2 of the ICD-10-CM⁴. Specific guidance for reporting current malignancy versus personal history of malignancy can be found in the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, FY 2017, Section I.C.2.m. In cases where the status of the malignancy is unclear, coders should query the provider for clarification.

C61 – Malignant neoplasm of prostate (HCC 12)

Z85.46 – Personal history of malignant neoplasm of prostate (no HCC value)

Resources:

¹ American Cancer Society. (2016). Key Statistics for Prostate Cancer. Retrieved from cancer.org

² Mayo Clinic. (n.d.). Prostate Cancer. Retrieved from mayoclinic.org

³ American Cancer Society. (2017). Survival Rates for Prostate Cancer. Retrieved from cancer.org

⁴ Schmidt, A., Kenney, A., Krawzik, K., & Willard, P. (2016). ICD-10-CM expert for physicians 2017: The complete official code set. Place of publication not identified: Optum360[®]

Overview

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men. According to the American Cancer Society, 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer within his lifetime and the majority of cases are diagnosed in men over the age of 65¹.

The prostate is a small, walnut-sized gland that sits below the male bladder and produces seminal fluid to transport sperm². Prostate cancer occurs when the cells within the gland become abnormal and grow, eventually forming a tumor. The cells can also invade other tissue, or they may become metastatic and spread to other parts of the body.

Risk Factors

The cause of prostate cancer is not clear, but there are some factors that increase the risk. Men over the age of 65 are more likely to develop prostate cancer, and those who are obese or have a family history of prostate or breast cancer have a greater rate of occurrence. Race may also be a factor, as there is a higher rate of occurrence among African-Americans than among others.