

Coding Diagnostic Confirmation

A recent analysis of data field Diagnostic Confirmation revealed cases were coded to 5, 6, 7 or 8 (not microscopically confirmed), however, case review identified subsequent procedures or surgeries had been performed that should have resulted in a lower diagnostic confirmation code (codes 1-4 microscopically confirmed) which is more conclusive.

- Coding instructions clearly indicate that diagnostic confirmation should record the best method used to confirm the presence of the cancer. The best diagnostic method could occur at any time throughout the entire course of disease. It is not limited to the confirmation at the time of initial diagnosis
- Reporting facilities should update abstracts based on subsequent procedures or surgeries as information is added to the medical record that would change a higher diagnostic confirmation code originally submitted, to a lower more conclusive diagnostic confirmation code, which will also generate a Modified Record to the CCR with this update.



Reminders:

- Make sure to review:
 - **Volume I, Diagnostic Confirmation**
- Coding for diagnostic confirmation is in the order of conclusiveness of the method, with the lowest number taking precedence over other codes.
 - *EXCEPTION: Code 3 is the preferred code for Heme and Lymphoid cases (assuming all conditions are met).*
- Code 3 is only used for Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms (9590/3-9992/3). Code 3 is effective for cases with a diagnosis date 2010+.
 - Pathology must demonstrate positive histology AND there must be evidence of
 - Positive immunophenotyping and/or positive genetic studies in the medical record
 - For older cases review coding instructions in the appropriate archived Volume I by year of diagnosis.
- Assign code 1 for:
 - Peripheral blood smear
 - Can be used as a histological diagnosis for any of the hematopoietic histologies (9590/3-9992/3)
 - Leukemia only (9800/3-9948/3): positive histology also includes
 - Complete blood count (CBC)
 - White blood count (WBC)