



Western Australian Coding Rule

0715/19 Sequencing of cancer codes in a palliative care episode

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition, ACS 0224 *Palliative care* was retired and information from this standard was relocated to ACS 2116 *Palliative care*.

Coders should be guided by the documentation in each case and applicable standards for code assignment and sequencing.

WA Coding Rule 0714/08 *Sequencing of cancer codes in a palliative care episode* is retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0714/08 *Sequencing of cancer codes in a palliative care episode* is retired.

[Effective 1 Jul 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]



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0714/08 Sequencing of cancer codes in a palliative care episode

Q.

A previous CCWA decision in June 2005 gave advice on the sequencing of neoplasm codes in a palliative care episode. Is this advice still current?

A.

The previous 2005 CCWA advice was retired with the inclusion of Example 2 in ACS 0224 *Palliative Care* (6th Edition, 2008) where a patient is admitted for management of brain metastases and the brain metastases assigned as the principal diagnosis.

Coders should be guided by ACS 0224 *Palliative Care* and assign a principal diagnosis code “*which reflects the diagnosis resulting in the relatively shortened prognosis*”, when coding palliative care episodes for neoplasms. Either the primary or secondary neoplasm may be assigned as the principal diagnosis, depending on the documentation. Z51.5 *Palliative care* should always be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

DECISION

The previous 2005 CCWA decision on neoplasm code sequencing for palliative care episodes has been retired. Coders should be guided by the documentation in each case and assign a principal diagnosis based on the instruction in ACS 0224 *Palliative Care*.

[Effective 09 Jul 2014, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]