



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Clinical coding guidelines: Chemotherapy

ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Eleventh Edition

WA Clinical Coding Authority

Purchasing and System Performance Division

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This document contains guidelines for code assignment once an admission has been deemed appropriate and the care type has been determined. Appropriateness of admission and determination of care type should be made following instructions in the Admission Policy (MP 0058/17).

Admissions for chemotherapy are coded in accordance with Australian Coding Standard (ACS) 0044 *Pharmacotherapy*.

Interpretation of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS

- Patients receiving chemotherapy a number of times during an admission where the same ACHI code applies, assign the code once only in accordance with ACS 0044 *Pharmacotherapy*.
- Extension -00 *Antineoplastic agent* in block [1920] *Pharmacotherapy* is assigned only for agents administered in the treatment of neoplasms/neoplasm related conditions, as per the ACHI Tabular note at block [1920].

This logic is supported by ACS 0044, Example 2, which illustrates that a drug normally assigned extension -19 is assigned extension -00 when given for a neoplasm/neoplasm related condition. This implies that for coding purposes the choice between a) extension -00 and b) other extensions, is based on the condition being treated (neoplastic/neoplasm related versus non-neoplastic condition), rather than the type of substance administered.

- Z51.1 *Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm* will almost always be sequenced as principal diagnosis.
 - The only exception is when booked same-day chemotherapy is not carried out due to another condition or complication requiring ongoing admitted care. In this instance the condition or complication is sequenced as principal diagnosis and Z51.1 as additional diagnosis, in accordance with point 2 in ACS 0011 *Intervention not performed or cancelled*. See also WA Clinical Coding Authority *Clinical Coding Guidelines: Admissions for elective procedures not performed*.
- Where intended same-day chemotherapy is extended to become a multi-day admission, do not assign Z51.1 at all.

In these instances, the logic in ACS 1404 *Admission for kidney dialysis* advising to assign Z49.- as additional diagnosis should not be applied to chemotherapy or radiotherapy admissions. This was clarified in Coding Matters (volume 12 number 4) and although old advice, there have been no related changes to these Australian Coding Standards to deviate from the Coding Matters instruction.
- It is inferred that multiple codes can be used to capture each different route of administration from the following statement in ACS 0044 *Pharmacotherapy*: “when a patient receives pharmacotherapy multiple times during an episode and the same ACHI code applies, assign the ACHI code once only”.
- In Eleventh Edition the concept “neoplasm treatment related” was incorporated into ACS 0044 *Pharmacotherapy*. Issues around this have been identified and queried with IHPA. In the meantime, coders should be guided by the *Guide to Major Eleventh Edition Changes: Australian Coding Standards & ICD-10-AM*, available: https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_/media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Clinical%20Coding/Guides%20and%20summaries/summ-11thed-ACS_ICD-10-AM.pdf

Same-day admissions for chemotherapy for a neoplasm/neoplasm related condition

Assign (in this sequence)	1	Principal diagnosis	Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i>
	2	Additional diagnoses	Codes for the neoplasm being treated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign primary and secondary malignancy codes; and morphology codes See also: specialty ACS for NEOPLASMS
	3	Additional diagnoses	Codes for any neoplasm related conditions being treated
	4	Principal procedure	A code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy, antineoplastic agent</i>. 5 th & 6th character extension digits '-00' denote antineoplastic agent & are always assigned for chemotherapy for a neoplasm/neoplasm related condition
Coding errors to avoid			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> as principal diagnosis but no procedure code assigned. Refer to <i>Clinical Coding Guidelines: Admissions for elective procedures not performed</i> for cancelled chemotherapy. Assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> as principal diagnosis but principal procedure code assigned is not a code from block 1920 with extension -00. Assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> as additional diagnosis without assignment of Z53.x <i>Procedure not carried out ...</i> as additional diagnosis Assignment of principal procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> with extension -00 without assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> as principal diagnosis Assignment of principal procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> without assignment of codes for the neoplasm treated Multiple assignment of identical procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> Incorrect code sequencing 			
Coding tips			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral, subcutaneous, enteral, and intramuscular chemotherapy are Type C procedures which in isolation do not meet Admission Policy (unless Type C certified). Where admission eligibility has been met, procedure codes for oral, subcutaneous, enteral, and/or intramuscular may be assigned (in isolation; or with other chemotherapy codes). 			

Same-day admissions for chemotherapy for conditions other than neoplasms e.g. rheumatoid arthritis

Assign	1	Principal diagnosis	A code for the condition being treated
	2	Principal procedure	<p>A code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i>.</p> <p>With applicable 5th & 6th character extension digits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -01 <i>Thrombolytic agent</i> • -02 <i>Anti-infective agent</i> • -03 <i>Steroid</i> • -04 <i>Antidote</i> • -06 <i>Insulin</i> • -07 <i>Nutritional substance</i> • -08 <i>Electrolyte</i> • -10 <i>Psychotherapeutic agent</i> • -19 <i>Other and unspecified pharmacological agent</i> <p>5th & 6th character extension digits '<u>00</u>' cannot be assigned for chemotherapy for conditions other than neoplasms/ neoplasm related conditions</p>
Coding errors to avoid			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> • Multiple assignment of identical procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> • Assignment of a principal procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> with 5th & 6th character extension digits '-00' 			

Multi-day admissions for chemotherapy

Assign	1	Principal diagnosis	A code for the condition being treated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neoplasm +/-neoplasm related condition; or a • Condition other than a neoplasm
	2	Principal procedure	A code from [1920] Administration of pharmacotherapy: With applicable 5 th & 6th character extension digits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -00 <i>Antineoplastic agent</i> • -01 <i>Thrombolytic agent</i> • -02 <i>Anti-infective agent</i> • -03 <i>Steroid</i> • -04 <i>Antidote</i> • -06 <i>Insulin</i> • -07 <i>Nutritional substance</i> • -08 <i>Electrolyte</i> • -10 <i>Psychotherapeutic agent</i> • -19 <i>Other and unspecified pharmacological agent</i>
Coding errors to avoid			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment of Z51.1 <i>Pharmacotherapy session for neoplasm</i> • Multiple assignment of identical procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> • Assignment of a procedure code from [1920] <i>Administration of pharmacotherapy</i> with 5th & 6th character extension digits '-00' when condition being treated is non-neoplastic/neoplasm related. 			
Coding tip			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure codes for oral, subcutaneous, enteral, and/or intramuscular may be assigned (in isolation; or with other chemotherapy codes). 			

See also

Guide to Major Eleventh Edition Changes: Australian Coding Standards & ICD-10-AM, WA Clinical Coding Authority, Purchasing and System Performance Division, July 2019

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Clinical%20coding/Guides%20and%20summaries/summ-11thed-ACS_ICD-10-AM.pdf

Clinical coding guidelines: Admissions for elective procedures not performed, WA Clinical Coding Authority, Purchasing and System Performance Division, January 2020.

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Clinical%20coding/Guides%20and%20summaries/guid-electnotperformed.pdf

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