



Cancer Status – 30 Second Check

1. Is the cancer ACTIVE today? Yes, if ANY apply:

- Cancer is present
- Receiving treatment (chemo, radiation, or hormone therapy such as Tamoxifen or Lupron)
- Newly diagnosed (even if treatment not started)
- Treatment delayed, refused, or deferred (must be documented)
- Watchful waiting / active surveillance

Document: 'Cancer active' with treatment/status and dates when possible

2. Is the cancer HISTORICAL? Yes, ONLY if ALL apply:

- Treatment completed
- No evidence of disease (NED)
- No ongoing treatment
- Surveillance or monitoring only

Document: 'History of cancer' with treatment end date and NED date

Key reminders:

- Monitoring alone does NOT equal active cancer
- 'Followed by oncology' is not sufficient
- Hormone therapy **can** indicate active cancer, even years later. **Providers should clearly link this.**

One line rule:

Document the cancer's CURRENT status today — not its lifetime history

References:

- CMS. *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting*.
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2025-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>