Focus on Breast Cancer
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Facts about Breast Cancer
In the United States, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death in women. In addition, breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women ages 40 to 49 years.1 About one in eight (12%) women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. The chance that breast cancer will be responsible for a woman’s death is about one in 36 (about 3%). All women are at risk for developing breast cancer, and the risk increases with age. Death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1989, with larger decreases in women younger than 50. These decreases are believed to be the result of earlier detection through screening and increased awareness, as well as improved treatment. The American Cancer Society recommends mammography as the screening tool in most adults.2

Current Cancer vs. History of Cancer
To correctly report a diagnosis of cancer, determine whether the patient’s cancer has been eradicated or is currently being treated. The neoplasm table in the ICD-9-CM code book establishes three categories of malignancy: primary, secondary and in situ. Malignant neoplasms should be coded as categorized; unknown sites (primary or secondary) must also be coded.

Current Cancer
Patients with cancer who are receiving active treatment for the condition should be reported with the malignant neoplasm code corresponding to the affected site. This applies even when a patient has had cancer surgery but is still receiving active treatment for the disease.

ICD-9-CM Coding: Breast Cancer3
- 174.8 Malignant neoplasm of other specified sites of female breast. Malignant neoplasm of contiguous or overlapping sites of breast whose point of origin cannot be determined.
- 174.9 Malignant neoplasm of breast (female), unspecified

ICD-10-CM Coding: Breast Cancer4,5
- C50.811 Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of right female breast
- C50.812 Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of left female breast
- C50.819 Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of unspecified female breast
- C50.911 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of right female breast
- C50.912 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of left female breast
- C50.919 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of unspecified female breast

ICD-9-CM Coding: History of Breast Cancer3
- V10.3 Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast

ICD-10-CM Coding: History of Breast Cancer4,5
- Z85.3 Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast
  * Conditions classifiable to C50-

ICD-9-CM Coding: History of Mastectomy
- V45.71 Acquired absence of breast and nipple

ICD-10-CM Coding: History of Mastectomy4,5
- Z90.10 Acquired absence of unspecified breast and nipple
- Z90.11 Acquired absence of right breast and nipple
- Z90.12 Acquired absence of left breast and nipple
- Z90.13 Acquired absence of bilateral breasts and nipples