

Focus on Hematologic Disorders

September is National Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Facts about Lymphoma

Lymphoma is more common in later life. In fact, more than two-thirds of people diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma are aged 60 or over. Since the mid-1970s, there has been a particularly noticeable rise in this type of lymphoma in the over-75s. In terms of Hodgkin's lymphoma, 15–30% of all cases occur in patients aged 60 years and older and portends a poorer prognosis, when compared to younger patients.

ICD-9-CM Coding:^{1,2}

- **200.xx** – Lymphosarcoma and reticulosarcoma and other specified malignant tumors of lymphatic tissue
- **201.xx** – Hodgkin's disease
- **202.xx** – Other malignant neoplasms of lymphoid and histiocytic tissue
- **V10.7x** – Personal history of other lymphatic and hematopoietic neoplasms

The fourth digit identifies the type of lymphoma, and the fifth digit identifies the site.

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- **C81.-** – Hodgkin lymphoma
- **C82.-** – Follicular lymphoma
- **C83.-** – Non-follicular lymphoma
- **C84.-** – Mature T/NK-cell lymphoma
- **C85.-** – Other specified and unspecified types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- **C86.-** – Other specified types of T/NK-cell lymphoma
- **Z85.7-** – Personal history of other malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, hematopoietic and related tissues

The fourth character identifies the type of lymphoma, and the fifth character identifies the site.

Facts about Thrombocytopenia

Although thrombocytopenia can be defined as a platelet count below 150,000 platelets per microliter, thrombocytopenia rarely causes problems until the count is below 50,000. Thrombocytopenia often occurs because of an underlying problem such as an immune disorder, malignancy or side effect of certain medications.

ICD-9-CM Coding:^{1,2}

- **287.3x** – Primary thrombocytopenia
- **287.4x** – Secondary thrombocytopenia
- **287.5** – Thrombocytopenia, unspecified
- **287.8** – Other specified hemorrhagic conditions
- **287.9** – Unspecified hemorrhagic conditions
- **289.84** – Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- **D69.4-** – Other primary thrombocytopenia
- **D69.5-** – Secondary thrombocytopenia
- **D69.6** – Thrombocytopenia, unspecified
- **D69.8** – Other specified hemorrhagic conditions
- **D69.9** – Hemorrhagic condition, unspecified
- **D75.82** – Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)

Facts about Leukemia

Leukemia is a cancer of the white blood cells. It is the most common type of blood cancer and affects 10 times as many adults as children. Most people diagnosed with leukemia are over 50 years old. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia and acute myeloid leukemia are diagnosed more often in older adults.

ICD-9-CM Coding:^{1,2}

- **204.xx** – Lymphoid leukemia
- **205.xx** – Myeloid leukemia
- **206.xx** – Monocytic leukemia
- **207.xx** – Other specified leukemia
- **208.xx** – Leukemia of unspecified cell type
- **996.85** – Complications of transplanted bone marrow
- **V10.6** – Personal history of leukemia

The fourth digit identifies the chronicity as acute, chronic, sub-acute, other or unspecified. The fifth digit indicates the status as in remission, in relapse or without mention of having achieved remission.

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- **C90.-** – Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms
- **C91.-** – Lymphoid leukemia
- **C92.-** – Myeloid leukemia
- **C93.-** – Monocytic leukemia
- **C94.-** – Other leukemias of specified cell type
- **C95.-** – Leukemia of unspecified cell type
- **Z85.6** – Personal history of leukemia
- **T86.0-** – Complications of bone marrow transplant

The fourth character identifies the chronicity and specific type of leukemia. The fifth character identifies the status as not having achieved remission, in remission or in relapse.

Facts about Anemia

Anemia is common in the elderly, and its prevalence increases with age. The prevalence of anemia in the elderly has been found to range from 8 to 44%, with the highest prevalence in men 85 years and older. Although many postulate that lower hemoglobin levels are a normal consequence of aging, there are at least two reasons for considering anemia in the elderly as a sign of disease. First, most older people maintain a normal red cell count, hemoglobin and hematocrit. Second, in most elderly patients, an underlying cause of anemia is found for hemoglobin levels of less than 12 g/dL.⁴

The most common causes of anemia in the elderly include: anemia of chronic disease (30-45%), iron deficiency (15-30%), post-hemorrhagic (5-10%), vitamin B₁₂ or folate deficiency (5-10%), chronic leukemia or lymphoma (5%) and myelodysplastic disorders (5%).⁵

¹ Optum ICD-9-CM for Physicians Professional 2015. Vols. 1&2. Salt Lake City: 2014.

² The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). "ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting." Department of Health and Human Services. DHHS, 2012, October. Web.

³ Optum ICD-10-CM: The Complete Official Draft Set 2015. Salt Lake City: 2014.

⁴ Joosten E., Pelemans W., Hiele M., Noyen J., Verhaeghe R, Boogaerts, MA. Prevalence and causes of anaemia in a geriatric hospitalized population. Gerontology. 1992;38:111–7.

⁵ Smith DL. Anemia in the Elderly. Am Fam Physician. 2000 Oct 1;62(7):1565–1572.