

# General Surgery Coding Alert

## ICD-10: 1 Code for Malignant Tonsil? - Not Any More

### Don't forget additional code.

You've had it pretty easy up until now □ reporting a malignant tonsil with just one code: 146.0 (Malignant neoplasm of tonsil).

You can forget about easy when ICD-10 goes into effect October 1 this year, because you'll need to select from four malignant tonsil codes, plus choose a code from a host of additional codes that you must report secondarily.

### Learn the Choices:

ICD-9 specifies that 146.0 is for tonsil, faucial, palatine, or not otherwise specified (NOS), and directs you to different codes for lingual or pharyngeal tonsil.

ICD-10 makes the same distinctions □ and then some. Instead of one code for the palatine tonsils, you have the following choices:

- C09.0 □ Malignant neoplasm of tonsillar fossa
- C09.1 □ Malignant neoplasm of tonsillar pillar (anterior) (posterior)
- C09.8 □ Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of tonsil
- C09.9 □ Malignant neoplasm of tonsil, unspecified.

**That's not all:** ICD-10 also instructs you to use an additional code from the following list, if applicable, which you should report second:

- alcohol abuse and dependence (F10.-)
- exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22)
- exposure to tobacco smoke in the perinatal period (P96.81)
- history of tobacco use (Z87.891)
- occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31)
- tobacco dependence (F17.-)
- tobacco use (Z72.0).