



Pathology/Lab Coding Alert

ICD-10-CM 2019: Don't Miss 'Upper,' 'Lower' Eyelid Distinction

More than 40 new codes specify eyelid cancer.

You read about the following new eyelid sebaceous-cell carcinoma codes in "Mark Changes to Coding Neoplasms, Metabolic Disorders, and More" on [page 66](#):

- C44.131 (Sebaceous cell carcinoma of skin of unspecified eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.132- (... right eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.1321 (... right upper eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.1322 (... right lower eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.139- (... left eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.1391 (... left upper eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.1392 (... left lower eyelid, including canthus)

But those are just a few of the many new codes for eyelid cancer in ICD-10-CM 2019, effective Oct. 1. Read on to learn about other new options for coding eyelid cancer beginning this fall.

Similar: You'll notice that the new code family follows the pattern of the existing codes for eyelid tumors, starting with unspecified eyelid (C44.131), then right eyelid (C44.132-), then left eyelid (C44.139-).

Different: You'll also notice that the new code family includes an extra, final position for right and left eyes? "1" for upper eyelid, and "2" for lower eyelid. The Oct. 1 ICD-10-CM update also makes this change for all other eyelid neoplasm codes, adding 38 new codes with a "1" or "2" in the final position to indicate upper or lower eyelid.

For example: ICD-10-CM adds two codes under C43.11-

- C43.111 (Malignant melanoma of right upper eyelid, including canthus)
- C43.112 (... right lower eyelid, including canthus)

and two codes under C43.12-:

- C43.121 (Malignant melanoma of left upper eyelid, including canthus)
- C43.122 (... left lower eyelid, including canthus)

"To use these more-specific codes, the pathologist will need to find specific information from the operative report concerning whether the tissue is from the upper or lower eyelid," says **R.M. Stainton Jr., MD**, president of Doctors' Anatomic Pathology Services in Jonesboro, Ark.

Similarly, the Oct. 1 update adds the final position "1" and "2" to the following codes to distinguish upper or lower eyelid:

- C4A.11- (Merkel cell carcinoma of right eyelid, including canthus)
 - C4A.12- (... left eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.102- (Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.109- (... skin of left eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.112- (Basal cell carcinoma of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.119- (... left eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.122- (Squamous cell carcinoma of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
 - C44.129- (... skin of left eyelid, including canthus)
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- C44.192 (Other specified malignant neoplasm of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
- C44.199 (...skin of left eyelid, including canthus)
- D03.11 (Melanoma in situ of right eyelid, including canthus)
- D03.12 (...left eyelid, including canthus)
- D04.11 (Carcinoma in situ of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
- D04.12 (... left eyelid, including canthus)
- D22.11 (Melanocytic nevi of right eyelid, including canthus)
- D22.12 (...left eyelid, including canthus)
- D23.11 (Other benign neoplasm of skin of right eyelid, including canthus)
- D23.12 (... skin of left eyelid, including canthus).

Do this: In addition to noting right or left eye in the documentation, make sure you look for "upper" or "lower" eyelid information before choosing the proper eyelid-tumor code in ICD-10-CM 2019.
