

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Focus Of Care Comes First For Gastrostomy

Question: Our patient has a diagnosis of cancer of the esophagus and is on a gastrostomy tube. How should I code for him?

Oregon Subscriber

Answer: Code V55.1 (Attention to artificial openings, gastrostomy) for the gastrostomy. Then report the cancer of the esophagus with 150.9 (Malignant neoplasm of esophagus; esophagus, unspecified). The second code explains why the patient has a gastrostomy tube.

If the cancer is the focus of the care, code for it first.