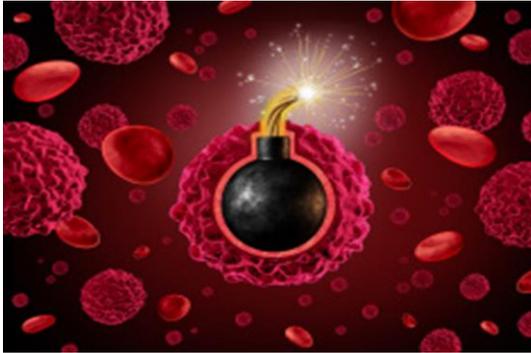


# Molina Healthcare

## Coding Education

### Neoplasm of Uncertain Behavior



Providers routinely do not have all the information needed to make a final diagnosis. Consequently, an “unspecified” condition is reported while awaiting additional information. “**Neoplasm of uncertain behavior**” is frequently documented to describe a mass that is awaiting confirmatory biopsy results. While this interim diagnosis may seem clinically accurate, it is not an appropriate use of the diagnostic code.

#### **Coding Tip:**

Neoplasm of uncertain behavior, unspecified (ICD-10-CM D48.9):

- Must be based on pathology or histology report stating behavior is uncertain or unpredictable
- NOT used for an unknown neoplasm while pending confirmation
- This diagnostic is seldom used

#### **Documentation Examples:**

##### **Initial Diagnosis:**

**Assessment:** 49 year old female with a new solid breast mass, suspicious for cancer. Biopsy completed. Pathology report still pending.

- **ICD-10 Code:** N63 Unspecified lump in breast

**Plan:** Counseling today, awaiting pathology results, close follow up scheduled.

##### **Established Diagnosis:**

**Assessment:** 50 year old male with aortic body tumor. Pathology report states uncertain malignant potential.

- **ICD-10 Code:** D44.7 Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of aortic body and other paraganglia

**Plan:** Continue follow up with and management by oncology.

**Have Questions?**

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