

## Coding Guidelines

### Thyroid Gland C739

#### Coding Hormone Therapy

Code Hormone Therapy as 01 for follicular and/or papillary thyroid cancer when thyroid hormone therapy is given.

Do not code replacement therapy as treatment **unless** the tumor is papillary and/or follicular. The thyroid gland produces hormones that influence essentially every organ, tissue and cell in the body. When the thyroid is partially or totally removed, it is no longer able to secrete these essential hormones and the patient is placed on hormone replacement therapy.

The growth of follicular cell cancer depends on thyroid stimulating hormone. Suppression of these hormones is thought to deprive the cells of a growth-promoting influence. Patients with follicular cell-derived cancers have been treated with supraphysiologic doses of thyroid hormone to suppress serum thyroid-stimulating hormones. This treatment has been an industry standard for more than forty years.

#### Generic Thyroid Drug Names

Levothyroxine/L-thyroxine  
Liothyronine  
Liotrix  
Methimazole  
Natural Thyroid  
Propylthiouracil/PTU  
Thyrotropin alfa

#### Thyroid Drugs Brand Names

Armour Thyroid  
Cytomel  
Levothroid  
Levoxyl  
Naturethroid  
Synthroid  
Tapazole  
Thyrogen  
Thyrolar  
Unithroid  
Westhroid