

Coding Guidelines

Thyroid Gland C739

Coding Hormone Therapy

Code *Hormone Therapy* as 01 for follicular, papillary, and oncocytic thyroid carcinoma when thyroid hormone therapy is given.

In papillary, follicular, and oncocytic carcinoma, natural or synthetic thyroid hormone products have a dual role:

1. Suppression of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH): This is cancer directed therapy since the tumor cells of the above mentioned morphologies express TSH receptor. TSH is a trophic hormone that can promote tumor growth.
2. Hormonal replacement therapy to treat post-surgical or post-radiation hypothyroidism. C-cells in medullary carcinoma do not express TSH receptor, thus, TSH suppression would not be indicated. However, replacement hormonal therapy with synthetic or natural thyroid hormones post surgery is given to treat the post-surgical hypothyroidism. In operable thyroid anaplastic carcinoma, the goal of levothyroxine therapy is hormone replacement.

Note: Thyrogen (thyrotropin alfa) should not be coded as hormone therapy when given as a stimulating agent in I-131 radioactive therapy.

Generic Thyroid Drug Names

Levothyroxine/L-thyroxine
Liothyronine
Liotrix
Natural Thyroid
Thyrotropin alfa

Thyroid Drugs Brand Names

Armour Thyroid
Cytomel
Levothroid
Levoxyl
Synthroid
Thyrogen
Thyrolar
Unithroid