

Encounter codes should be used when screening a patient for a condition and the results are negative. Encounter codes are used for follow-up or post-op visits after *medical* or *surgical* treatment, and the treated condition is usually no longer clinically present.

Z12 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasms

Screening is the testing for disease or disease precursors in asymptomatic individuals so that early detection and treatment can be provided for those who test positive for the disease.

Use additional code to identify any family history of malignant neoplasm (Z80.-)

Z80.8 Family history of malignant neoplasm of other organs or systems classifiable to C00-C14, C40-C44(skin cancer codes), C69-C79

Z12.81 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of oral cavity

Z12.83 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of skin

Code Z12.81 or Z12.83 first followed by Z80.8 (family history of malignant neoplasm) if applicable.

Note: My Medicare Carrier will not give me any information if an E&M code with a diagnosis of Z12.81 or Z12.83 is payable. Probably, these codes should not be used unless you want to do a test billing. A work around would be for the medical documentation to indicate the patient is concerned about a particular skin lesion(s) on the body such as *a pigmented lesion on the back*. Examine the lesions of concern and the rest of the skin. Describe in the medical record the lesions of concern, their diagnosis, and recommendations. Bill using the ICD-10 code(s) for the lesions diagnosed.

[CMS Information concerning covered preventive services](#)