



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

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Re: Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy (CAR-T) Status and Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)

Dear Ms. Pickett:

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on two proposals related to Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy (CAR-T) that were discussed at the September 10-11, 2019 Meeting of the ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee. ASH represents more than 17,000 clinicians and scientists worldwide who are committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases. These disorders encompass malignant hematologic disorders such as leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma, as well as non-malignant conditions such as sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, bone marrow failure, venous thromboembolism, and hemophilia. ASH members have been at the forefront of CAR-T research and clinical care of patients in need of these cellular therapies.

## **New Gene and Cellular Therapies Subcategory and CAR-T Status Diagnosis Code**

ASH supports the development of a new subcategory of post-procedural status codes for gene and cellular therapy Z98.892 and the additional new codes:

Z98.8921 – Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Status  
CAR-T Status  
Z98.8928 - Gene and cellular therapy status, other  
Z98.8929 - Gene and cellular therapy status, unspecified

As stated in this proposal, there are currently no ICD-10-CM codes to capture the status of a patient receiving gene and cellular therapies, including CART therapies. These new codes will allow physicians to better track patient outcomes and complications following receipt of this specialized treatment.

## **New Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) Diagnosis Codes**

ASH supports the development of multiple diagnosis codes to define the different grades of Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) as laid out in option 2 of the September 10 – 11 ICD-10-CM Meeting minutes. We join the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC) and the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) in making this request. CRS is the most common side effect experienced by patients after CAR-T therapy, resulting

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vary dramatically from mild to moderate to severe, life-threatening reactions and in some cases, death.

The proposed grading system in option 2 is based on a consensus guideline, “*ASTCT Consensus Grading for Cytokine Release Syndrome and Neurologic Toxicity Associated with Immune Effector Cells*,”<sup>1</sup> accepted for publication in December 2018. CAR-T providers have accepted this grading system and are utilizing it in medical documentation. ASH supports the establishment of ICD-10-CM codes to reflect the consensus grade levels in the ASTCT paper and listed in option 2.

ASH would also be open to additional language to more fully describe the new codes as follows:

New subcategory	D89.83 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS)
New code	D89.831 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade 1 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) with fever
New code	D89.832 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade 2 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) not requiring vasopressors
New code	D89.833 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade 3 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) requiring one vasopressor with or without vasopressin
New code	D89.834 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade 4 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) requiring multiple vasopressors excluding vasopressin
New code	D89.835 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade 5 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) death
New code	D89.839 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) grade unspecified

We respectfully request the addition of these new ICD-10-CM codes for CAR-T therapy and Cytokine Release Syndrome. ASH will continue to work with the Coordination and Maintenance Committee as these therapies are expanded and new codes will likely be needed. Please contact Suzanne Leous, ASH’s Chief Policy Officer at [sleous@hematology.org](mailto:sleous@hematology.org) with any questions regarding this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Roy L. Silverstein, MD  
President

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<sup>1</sup> ASTCT Consensus Grading for Cytokine Release Syndrome and Neurologic Toxicity Associated with Immune Effector Cells, Lee, Daniel W. et al. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*, Volume 25, Issue 4, 625 – 638.