



AAVBC
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VALUE BASED CARE

Acute Leukemia

Quick Reference Guide

2026

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1 CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Definition: Acute leukemias are a group of rapidly progressing **hematologic malignancies** characterized by uncontrolled clonal proliferation of immature blood cells (blasts) in the bone marrow, resulting in profound cytopenias and **failure of normal hematopoiesis**. The two principal adult subtypes are acute myeloid leukemia (**AML**) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (**ALL**).

ICD-10 Codes

AML (HCC 17): C92.0x (AML, not elsewhere classified), C92.3x (myeloid sarcoma), C92.5x (acute myelomonocytic leukemia), C92.6x (acute myeloid leukemia with 11q23-abnormality), C92.Ax (acute myeloid leukemia with multilineage dysplasia), C93.0x (acute monoblastic/monocytic leukemia), C94.0x (acute erythroid leukemia), C94.2x (acute megakaryoblastic leukemia), C94.4x (acute panmyelosis with myelofibrosis), C92.4x (acute promyelocytic leukemia). **ALL (HCC 18):** C91.0x (acute lymphoblastic leukemia). **Unspecified Acute Leukemia (HCC 18):** C95.0x (acute leukemia of unspecified cell type = **AVOID** when subtype is known).

For all acute leukemia ICD-10 codes, a **6th character is required**, and omitting this character produces an unspecified code that may map to a **lower-weighted HCC: 0** = not in remission, **1** = in remission, **2** = in relapse. **Example: C94.00** acute erythroid leukemia, not having achieved remission.

Prevalence: ~22,010 new **AML** diagnoses/year¹ and ~6,500 new **ALL** diagnoses/year in the U.S.² Median age at AML diagnosis **68-69 years**;¹ annual AML incidence reaches 17.3 per 100,000 in adults ≥70 and 5-year overall survival is ~62% in patients <50 but **falls to ~9.4%** in those ≥65;³ 5-year OS for adult ALL >60 is **<20-30%**;⁴ **Inpatient utilization** dominates acute leukemia costs in both AML and ALL. For AML, monthly per-patient costs nearly double post-relapse (~\$23,000 in remission vs. ~\$38,000 after relapse), with first salvage therapy reaching **~\$172,000/month**.^{5,6} For ALL, relapsed adults spend over half of follow-up time hospitalized, with relapse-related admissions averaging **\$132,000**; pre-transplant cancer-related costs in ALL (**\$462,000**) exceed all other hematologic malignancies.^{7,8} These data underscore that delayed detection and relapsed disease disproportionately amplify hospital-driven expenditures across both subtypes.

HCC/RAF V28 Mapping

ICD-10 CODE(S) ⁹	HCC CATEGORY (V28) ¹⁰	RAF WEIGHT (CNA) ¹¹	DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT ⁹
C92.0(0/1/2) (AML) C92.3(0/1/2) C92.5(0/1/2) C92.6(0/1/2) C92.A(0/1/2) C93.0(0/1/2)	HCC 17 Cancer Metastatic to Lung/Liver/Brain; AML Except Promyelocytic	4.209	Specify AML subtype per pathology; document remission status (0/1/2) at each encounter; confirm active disease annually via MEAT; do not use Z85.6 while on any active therapy

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