Excision, Repair & Wound Care

John David Rosdeutscher, M.D.

Cumberland Plastic Surgery, P.C.

Incision & Drainage

• 10040-10180
• 10120 & 10121 specific to foreign body removal
• Specific to type (abscess, hematoma, bulla, cyst...) & complexity (simple/single vs. multiple/complex)
• 10180 specific to postoperative wound infection
Pairing, Cutting, Biopsy, & Tags

- 11055-11057 Pairing or cutting benign hyperkeratotic lesion (corn/callous) # of lesions
- 11100 Biopsy (includes simple closure)
- 11101 Each addl bx
- 11200 Skin tag removal 1st 15 lesions
- 11201 addl 10 lesions
- 11300-11313 Shaving of lesion (should not require closure) Based on location & diameter of lesion

Excision

- Full-thickness (not shave or destruction)
- Minimum diameter excised (lesion diameter + margin)
- Diameter only goes to > 4cm (for unusual/complicated use modifier 22)
- Benign (11400-11446)
- Hidradenitis (11450-11471) May include closure
- Malignant (11600-11646)
- Location
- Includes simple (skin-only closure)
Wound Closure

Techniques

Hausted principles

- Aseptic technique
- Meticulous hemostasis
- Gentle handling of tissue
- Obliteration of all dead space
Repair

- Three “L”s: Length, Level, Location
- Butterfly/tape/Steri-strips...E/M code only
- Simple (12001-12021): Skin only
  - 1 layer closure
  - Superficial wound-epidermis/dermis, subQ not involving deeper tissue
  - Includes local anesthesia
  - Includes cautery (chemical or electric) of wounds not closed

Intermediate Repair

- Layered closure
  - 1 or more deeper layers of subQ &/or superficial fascia in addition to skin
- Single-layer closure if extra work of cleaning heavily contaminated wound
Complex repair

- Requires more than just layered closure
  - Debridement of heavily contaminated wound & layered closure
  - Extensive undermining (without transposition flap)
  - Conservative revision (scar excision prior to closure)
- Does not include excision of benign/malignant lesion
- Does not include excisional preparation of wound bed or open fracture/dislocation
- Add-on codes for each addl 5cm > 7.5cm

Complex Repair

- New 2014: 13150 deleted (eyelids, nose, ears &/or lips) 1cm or less
- Complex repair in other anatomic areas start @ 1.1 cm
  - 13100, 13120, 13131
- Use simple (12011) or intermediate (12051) for repairs (eyelids, nose, ears &/or lips) 1 cm or less
- Same for other anatomic areas
Figure 1-8 Skin edges that are everted gradually flatten to produce a level wound surface.
A. Simple interrupted

B. Vertical mattress
Continuous over and over
Squamous Cell Carcinoma

- 2cm diameter lesion
- 2.5cm minimum diameter excision with margin

Squamous Cell Carcinoma

2.5cm x 4cm defect
Squamous Cell Carcinoma

4cm complex closure (extensive undermining, 3-layer closure)

Excision & Repair

• 13132 Rt (Complex repair right neck 4cm)
• 11623 Rt 59 (Excision malignant lesion right neck 2.5cm diameter)
Soft-Tissue Excision

- Diameter of mass (plus required margin)
- Subcutaneous
- Subfascial (intramuscular or subgaleal)
- Location on body
- Prior to 2010 only 3 mass codes that did not specify size or cover all anatomic locations
- Simple or intermediate repair included
- Complex repair specifically not included in CPT (CMS disagrees)

Subcutaneous Mass
8 cm diameter
Subcutaneous Mass
8 cm diameter

Complex Repair
12.5 cm
(not Medicare)
Excision of Mass

• 27337 Rt (Excision Rt leg subcutaneous mass 8cm diameter)
• 13121 Rt 59 (Complex repair Rt leg 7.5cm)
• 13122 Rt 59 (Complex repair Rt leg additional 5cm)

Adding Repairs

• Add lengths of repair together when the same level (simple, intermediate, complex) & same anatomic group (trunk...)
• If different level &/or anatomic group, report separately with 59 modifier with most complicated 1st
• Medicare fiscal intermediaries will often only reimburse 1st lesion if 51 modifier used (even though correct)
• Excisions are not added
Multiple Repairs

- 51 Multiple procedures
- 59 Distinct procedural service
- CMS.GOV

Local Tissue Rearrangement

- 14000-14061, 14301-14350
- Flap without named blood supply
- Z-plasty, V-Y advancement, Rhomboid, Circumferential advancement, bipedicle flap...
- Includes excision (benign or malignant)
- Based on surface area including that required to repair donor defect
Multifocal Basal Cell Carcinoma

8 cm diameter with clear margin - back

Multifocal Basal Cell Carcinoma

Back defect
Local Tissue Rearrangement - circumferential advancement

- Decrease from 8cm diameter to 5.5cm diameter
- LTR ~ 27cm(2)

Local Tissue Rearrangement

- 14001 Excision malignant lesion 8cm diameter (included) & circumferential advancement flap 27cm(2)
- 15100 59 Split-thickness skin graft 24cm(2)

- Surface area (circles): $\pi \times r^2$
- Others roughly L x W
Debridement

• Significant changes in 2011
• 11040 (epidermis) & 11041 (dermis) removed
• Excisional (11042-11047) Based on deepest layer of viable tissue removed
• Selective (97597-97598) removal of non-viable tissue (&/or viable skin only)
• Non-selective (97602) Gradual removal of non-viable tissue (Generally not by physician)

Debridement

• Based on surface area (> or < 20 sq cm)
• Document pre & post debridement wound measurement
• % of wound debrided
• Indication, anesthetic, technique, instrumentation, hemostasis, pt tolerance, dressing
• CPT code selection based on post-debridement surface area (unlike lesion excision)
• Round up for 0.5 or greater & down for < (20.4 to 20, 20.5 to 21 sq cm)
Debridement-Multiple Wounds

• Same anatomic location (legs, arms, trunk, face,…) & same level add surface area together
• Same anatomic location & different levels report only highest level debridement
• If different anatomic locations can charge separately (59)
• If excisional & selective debridements performed in same anatomic group can charge separately

Debridement-Multiple Procedures

• If skin substitute applied after debridement, charge only skin substitute
• Exception for excisional preparation (1500x) & extensive debridement (muscle 11043 & bone 11044)
• TCC/UNNA boot can only be charged separately from selective debridement (o/w can only charge excisional)
Debridement

• 11000/11001 Extensive eczematous or infected skin up to 10% BSA/ea additional 10%
• 11004-11012 Necrotizing infections, infected mesh, compound fxs...
  Specific to site & material, not surface area

Surgical Preparation

• 15002-15005
• Surgically preparing a clean & viable wound surface for placement of graft, flap, skin substitute, or NPWT
• May include surgical release of scar contracture or band
• Based on surface area of wound created
• May be similar procedure as debridement with more definitive coverage/healing planned
• 15920-15999 Pressure ulcer excision
Skin Replacements

• Autograft/cultured autograft (from same pt) 15040-15157
• Full-thickness autograft (includes direct closure of donor site) 15200-15261
• Split-thickness graft includes epidermis & part of dermis (leaves part of dermis to re-epithelialize)
• Full-thickness graft includes all of dermis-does not contract, thicker
• Autograft codes remain unchanged for 2012: surface area & anatomic-site dependent

Skin Substitute Grafts

• Allograft-transplant from same species
• Xenograft-transplant from another species (most commonly pig)
• 2012 allograft/xenograft/biological products for scaffolding surface application codes deleted
• Based on surface area & not as straightforward or “add-on like other CPT
• Total surface area of application < or > 100cm sq
Skin Substitutes/Replacements

- Apligraf
- Dermagraft
- Alloderm
- Flex HD
- Integra
- Oasis/Stratice

Skin Substitute Grafts

- Total Surface area < 100cm sq
  - 15271: 1st 25cm sq Trunk/Arms/Legs
  - +15272: ea. Addnl 25cm sq
  - 15275: 1sr 25cm sq
    Face/Scalp/Mouth/Neck/Genitalia/Hands/Feet/Digits
  - +15276: ea addnl 25cm sq
Skin Substitute Grafts

- Total Surface Area > 100cm sq
  - 15273: 1st 100cm sq Trunk/Arms/Legs
  - +15274: ea addnl 100cm sq
  - 15277: 1st 100cm sq
    Face/Scalp/Mouth/Neck/Genitalia/Hands/Feet/digits
  - +15278: ea addnl 100cm sq
  - 15272/15274/15276/15278 are add-on codes & do not require modifier 51 (may require 59)

**Biological Implantation**

- If skin substitute used deep (breast reconstruction/hernia/...), use +15777
- Implantation of biological implant for soft-tissue reinforcement)
- 2014 CPT emphasizes 15777 is only to be used for breast/trunk o/w use unlisted procedure 17999
Serial Debridelements

• 97597 & 97598 for removal of necrotic (non-viable) tissue & debris (selective)
• 11042 (11045 ea additional 20 sq cm) SQ
• 11043 (11046 ea additional 20 sq cm) muscle/fascia
Excisional Preparation & STSG

• 15002 Surgical preparation by excision. Trunk, arms, legs first 100 sq cm or 1% BSA infant/children
• 15003 Each additional 100 sq cm or 1% BSA
• 15100 Split-thickness autograft trunk, arms, legs first 100 sq cm or 1% BSA infant/children
• 15101 Each additional 100 sq cm or 1% BSA
Cervical spine infection w/dehiscence
- Exposed spine
- Hardware removed
- External fixation

Cervical spine wound
Serial debridements-bone (11044)
Cervical spine wound

• Covered with lower trapezius myocutaneous flap
• Complicated by seroma/CSF leak & small peri-flap dehiscence

Myocutaneous Flap

• 15620 59 Trapezius myocutaneous flap (neck)
• 15004 excisional preparation of wound sq cm
Cervical spine wound

- Bilateral splenius capitus muscle flaps to close dead space/cover hardware
- Re-advancement of Trapezius flap (LTR)

Revision Flaps

15732 78 50 Muscle flaps during global post-op period
14141 78 59 LTR neck during global post-op period (separate procedure) sq cm
11044 78 59 Debridement bone during post-op period (separate procedure) sq cm
Ameloblastoma

• Technically benign tumor (3rd recurrence)
• 21047 Excision benign tumor or cyst of mandible requiring extra-oral osteotomy & partial mandibulectomy
• 21045 Radical resection technically reserved for malignant lesions
Free Fibula Flap Mandible Reconstruction

- 29069 Free osteocutaneous flap with microvascular anastomosis
- Do not report 69990-use of operating microscope (included in most of the free flap codes)
- STSG to close donor site reported separately 15100/15101
- Tracheotomy 31600
- Cancellous bone graft 21215
- Archbars/maxillo-mandibular fixation 21462