

Coding for Ulcer Debridement in Novitas World

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Novitas

Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Wound Care (L35139)

https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35139&ver=40&CntrctrSelected=324*1&Cntrctr=324&s=45&DocType=Active&bc=AggAAAIAlAAAAA%3d%3d&

Coverage for wound care on a continuing basis is contingent upon documentation that the wound is improving in response to the wound care being provided.

It is neither reasonable nor medically necessary to continue a given type of wound care if evidence of wound improvement cannot be shown as long as the overall goal of care for the specific patient is healing and not palliation.

A wound that shows no improvement after 30 days requires a new approach, which may include a physician reassessment of underlying infection, metabolic, nutritional, or vascular problems inhibiting wound healing, or a new treatment approach.

It is recommended that the reasons for lack of progress be noted and the justification for continued treatment be documented if treatment continues after regression or plateaus.

Debridement will not be considered a reasonable and necessary procedure for a wound that is clean and free of necrotic tissue

11040 / 11041

- Deleted from CPT
- Do not use them.....
 - Ever
- Replaced by 97597 / 97598
- January 1, 2011

97602

- Non sharp debridement
- For nurses / facility
- No RVU assignment for physician

Code choice based on deepest depth to which you debride

- Dermis
- SubQ
- Muscle / Fascia
- Bone

97597

- Debridement of open wound to level of epidermis/dermis total wound surface area less than or equal to 20 square centimeters
- Debridement defined as:
 - high pressure waterjet with or without suction
 - sharp selective debridement with scissors, scalpel, and forceps
- Debridement should involve removal of:
 - fibrin, devitalized epidermis and/or dermis, exudate, debris, biofilm

Examples

- Remember TOTAL Wound Surface Area
- One ulcer 4cm x 4cm debrided to dermis:
 - 97597 one unit
- Two ulcers: first 2cm x 2cm, second 4cm x 4cm both debrided to dermis
 - 97597 one unit
- Three ulcers: 2cm x 2cm, 3cm x 2cm, 2cm x 2cm all three debrided to dermis
 - 97597 one unit

97598

- Add-on code to 97597
- To be used if wound over 20 sq. cm
- Debridement of open wound to level of epidermis / dermis each additional 20 square centimeters
- Used WITH 97957
- No 51 modifier on 97598 with 97597
- Never to be used alone

Examples

- One ulcer 5 x 5 sq. cm
 - 97597 one unit
 - 97598 one unit
- Two ulcers: first 4 x 4, second 4 x 3 sq. cm
 - 97597 one unit
 - 97598 one unit

Examples cont...

- Two ulcers: first 5 x5, second 5 x 4
 - 97597 one unit
 - 97598 2 units
- One ulcer 75 sq. cm
 - 97597 one unit
 - 97598 3 units

97597/97598

- Fall under Medicare consolidated billing
- Will not get paid if patient is in a facility on a Medicare Part A stay
- Can try to contract with facility....good luck!

11042/11045

- 11042: Debridement to subcutaneous tissue first 20sq. cm or less total
- 11045: Add-on code: Debridement to subQ each additional 20sq. Cm.
- Includes epidermis and dermis with it

11043/11046

- 11043: Debridement to muscle/fascia first 20sq. cm or less total
- 11046: Add-on code: Debridement to muscle/fascia each additional 20sq. Cm.
- Includes epidermis and dermis and subQ with it
- Big jump in reimbursement from 11042
- Submit Pathology!

11044/11047

- 11044: Debridement to bone first 20sq. cm or less total
- 11047: Add-on code: Debridement to bone each additional 20sq. Cm.
- Includes epidermis and dermis and subQ and muscle/fascia with it
- Submit Pathology!

All options together

- 97597 up to 20 sq. cm Epidermis/Dermis
 - 97598 each addl. 20 sq cm
- 11042 up to 20 sq. cm. SubQ
 - 11045 each addnl. 20 sq. cm
- 11043 up to 20 sq. cm. Muscle/Fascia
 - 11046 each addnl. 20 sq. cm
- 11044 up to 20 sq. cm Bone
 - 11047 each addnl. 20 sq. cm

Choose correct code

- Code based on depth of tissue actually debrided, not the depth of the wound
- Sq. cm. used is amount of tissue debrided, not the size of the ulcer

Examples

- Ulcer is 6cm x 5cm to depth of dermis and you debride 4cm x 4cm of tissue to dermis:
 - 97597
- Ulcer is 6cm x 6cm to depth of bone and you debride 4cm x 3cm of it to subQ
 - 11042

Two ulcers

- If at same depth, one code for total sq. cm. debrided at that depth
- If debrided at different depths then can use two codes

Examples

- One ulcer debride 2cm x 2cm to dermis and another debride 6cm x 6cm to muscle.

97597 – 59 mod

11043

11046

Included in debridement

- Dressing change
- Local care training
- Topicals applied

Novitas 2017 Part B Physician Fee Schedule Non-Facility

- 97597: \$81.73
- 11042: \$126.93
- 11043: \$249.05
- 11044: \$343.86

- All have Zero day global

Documentation

- Different plans and different LCD's may have different requirements.
- You are responsible to know
- We're talking about outpatient documentation requirements

Documentation Required

- Document medical necessity of debridement AKA why you are doing it....
 - Decrease risk of infection
 - Promote healing
 - Limb salvage
- Medical Diagnosis
- Anesthesia, if used

Documentation Required

- Wound size(s) in sq. cm.
- Depth of wound
- Square cm. of tissue debrided
- Depth of tissue debrided
- Drainage
- Color
- Absence / presence of necrotic tissue

Documentation Required

- Vascularity
- Op Report
- Patient specific goals
- Wound better or worse?

Not in our LCD but suggested

- Texture
- Temperature
- Condition of Surrounding Tissue
- Presence or absence of infection
- Location of ulcer
- Presence or absence of Undermining/Tunneling
- Photograph??

Not in our LCD but suggested

- Instrument used
- Dressings used
- Immediate post-debridement care
- Instructions
- Methods of offloading
- Complicating factors/Comorbidities

Thank You!!



Coding, Compliance, and Documentation For Ulcer Debridement in Novitas World

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Resources

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Resources

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