Dermatology Coding Alert

Clip and Save: Say Goodbye to Your Modifier -59 Woes

This flowchart helps you learn the do\'s and don\'ts of distinct procedural services

If you struggle to keep your bundled codes straight and make sure you report the codes separately or bundled every time, you are not alone.

Suppose your dermatologist performs two procedures, such as an injection (J2001, Injection, lidocaine HCl for intravenous infusion, 10 mg) and a debridement (11000, Debridement of extensive eczematous or infected skin; up to 10% of body surface). You look at the National Correct Coding Initiative version 10.2 edits and see that NCCI bundles the two codes together.

So you append modifier -59 (Distinct procedural service) to the bundled code and hope for the best, right? No.
Use this handy tool to help you decide if you should append a modifier at all and the modifier of best choice every time.