Dermatology Coding Alert

Clip and Save: Use This Tool to Capture All of Your Integumentary Services

Watch what a difference the site and repair details can make

The concept of good, thorough documentation is not foreign to any of you dermatology coders out there. But sometimes, it\'s easy to overlook the obvious.

Use this tool to help you start looking at the details of only a couple of dermatology practices. Then customize the tool to your own practice by adding details for the most common procedures your dermatologists perform.

Purpose

Your dermatology practice will use the documentation provided in medical for several reasons including:

1. Details of the care provided to the patient

2. Origin of charges

3. Diagnosis and procedure codes

4. Evidence for appeal claims, if necessary

5. Utilization and quality-of-care management reviews

   Necessary Clinical Details (by Procedure)

    For wound repair codes (12001-13160), your documentation should include:

6. Wound dimensions

7. Anatomic site of each wound

8. **Surgical method used for each wound including:**

9. adhesive strip application in combination with other material or as a sole material

10. chemical or electrocauterization

11. debridement

12. simple repair

13. layer closure

14. complex repair (e.g., includes wounds that require extensive undermining)

15. secondary wound repair

16. blood vessel, tendon, nerve repair

17. ligation and/or exploration of vessels

18. adjacent tissue transfer/rearrangement

19. split-thickness skin graft

20. full-thickness skin graft

    For injection procedures, your documentation should include:

21. **Reason for injections(s):**

22. therapeutic

23. prophylactic

24. diagnostic

25. **Site of injections(s):**

26. abscess

27. cyst

28. flap/graft

29. ganglion cyst

30. intralesional

31. **Substance used for injections(s):**

32. alcohol

33. anesthetic

34. lytic solution

35. medication

36. pharmacologic agent

37. steroid

38. subcutaneous filling material

39. Injection dose.

    Editor\'s note: Material in this tool reviewed by **William J. Conner, MD**, founder of Conner Health Clinic, a multispecialty practice in Charlotte, N.C.