

Dermatology Coding Alert

Reader Question: Multiple 69100s Cover Multiple Punch Biopsies

Question: Can we code multiple punch biopsies on a single claim? Our dermatologist sent 11 punch biopsies of the patient's right ear to pathology for testing.

New Hampshire Subscriber

Answer: Yes, you can code multiple punch biopsies on the same claim; just list each on a separate line to clarify the procedure for your carrier. Report 69100 (Biopsy external ear) for the first punch and append modifier 59 (Distinct procedural service) for biopsies 2 through 11. You can either list each biopsy individually or can code 69100, 69100-59 x 10. Before filing the claim, verify whether your carrier has a preference for which option you choose.