

Dermatology Coding Alert

Reader Question: Multiple Lesions, Multiple Fingers

Question: Our dermatologist excised masses in three different areas: one deep in the right thumb, one deep in the left index finger, and one deep in the left ring finger. Would I code 26115 three times?

Texas Subscriber

Answer: Yes, you should be able to report CPT® code 26115 (Excision, tumor or vascular malformation, soft tissue of hand or finger, subcutaneous; less than 1.5 cm) three times, if the masses were each under 1.5 cm. Append modifier 59 (Distinct procedural service) to two of the lines to indicate they were separate procedures.

Depending on your carrier's preference, you may also need to append a modifier indicating which fingers were operated on:

- FA ☐ Left hand, thumb
- F1 ☐ Left hand, second digit
- F2 ☐ Left hand, third digit
- F3 ☐ Left hand, fourth digit
- F4 ☐ Left hand, fifth digit
- F5 ☐ Right hand, thumb
- F6 ☐ Right hand, second digit
- F7 ☐ Right hand, third digit
- F8 ☐ Right hand, fourth digit
- F9 ☐ Right hand, fifth digit.

The "second digit" is the index finger, and the "fifth digit" is the pinky. So in your case, report:

- 26115-F5
- 26115-59-F1
- 26115-59-F7.