

Dermatology Coding Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Let Your Hair Down on Special Dermatological Procedures

Question: What CPT codes apply for PUVA treatment and narrow band treatment?

Maine Subscriber

Answer: If you look at your 2010 CPT code book, you would find the codes listed under Special Dermatological Procedures and constitutes the 96900-96999 set.

You can also look for keywords such as "ultraviolet light therapy," "PUVA," or "photochemotherapy" -- all of which will lead you to the same code series.

Policy: PUVA or phototherapy and photochemotherapy are medically necessary treatments for the following skin conditions after conventional therapies have failed, including but not limited to:

- severely disabling psoriasis (i.e., psoriasis involving 10% or more of the body)
- cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (mycosis fungoides)
- severe refractory atopic dermatitis/eczema
- severe urticaria pigmentosa (cutaneous mastocytosis)
- severe lichen planus
- severe parapsoriasis
- pityriasis lichenoides
- granuloma annulare
- alopecia areata
- photodermatoses.

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-- Technical and coding advice for You Be the Coder and Reader Questions provided by **Pamela Biffle, CPC, CPC-I, CCS-P, CHCC, CHCO**, owner of PB Healthcare Consulting and Education Inc. in Watauga, Texas.