

Dermatology Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Light Box Therapy

Question: We are applying Vaseline prior to the light box treatment and billing out the CPT® code 96910, which specifies petrolatum. If instead of using Vaseline we started using mineral oil, can we still bill CPT® 96910?

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Answer: Yes, you should still be able to report CPT® code 96910 (Photochemotherapy; tar and ultraviolet B [Goeckerman treatment] or petrolatum and ultraviolet B), since mineral oil is a distillate of petrolatum. Make sure the technicians document its use.

Watch out: When the patient applies the treatment herself, you would report 96900 (Actinotherapy [ultraviolet light]) instead.