

Dermatology Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Punch Biopsy FBR

Question: The physician used a punch biopsy to remove a thickly embedded tick from a patient's back. Do we code differently because of the punch biopsy?

Michigan Subscriber

Answer: Disregard the tool your physician used, and simply report the service as a foreign body removal. In this case, submit 10120 (Incision and removal of foreign body, subcutaneous tissues; simple), which includes closure for repair.