

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Keep Dermabond Coding Simple

Question: Can I report G0168 anytime Dermabond is used in a simple laceration repair? What about if staples are also required to perform the repair?

Nebraska Subscriber

Answer: Don't make coding the use of Dermabond for simple laceration repairs complicated. Remember these five rules for using G0168 (Wound closure utilizing tissue adhesive[s] only) to represent a laceration closure complete with Dermabond only:

1. HCPCS code G0168 can be reported for Medicare patients only.
2. For non-Medicare carriers, the CPT code equivalent to code G0168 is 12011* (Simple repair of superficial wounds of face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips and/or mucous membranes; 2.5 cm or less).
3. Code G0168 can be used for Dermabond-only laceration repairs in both the inpatient and outpatient settings.
4. If sutures or staples are used with Dermabond to perform a laceration repair, you can only bill the layered laceration repair code based on the length and site of the wound.
5. Code G0168 should not be reported for the use of tissue adhesives for a simple laceration repair.