

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### Reader Questions: Don't Sweat Global on Boot Dressing Changes

**Question:** A new Medicare patient with a diagnosis of postphlebotic syndrome reports to the internist for Unna boot fitting. The internist places the Unna boot on the patient, and directs her to return in four days for a change of dressing. Four days later, the patient returns and a licensed nonphysician practitioner (NPP) changes the dressing and sends the patient home. How should I code these encounters? Is the second visit an E/M?

Florida Subscriber

**Answer:** You should code both visits with the Unna boot code; on the claim, report the following:

- 29580 (Strapping; Unna boot) for the initial fitting
- 29580 for the change of dressing
- 459.10 (Postphlebotic syndrome without complications).

**Reasoning:** CPT instructs coders to use 29580 for both Unna boot application and dressing change. The code has a global period of zero days, so you do not need to worry about frequency edits.