

## Eli's Rehab Report

### You Be the Coder: Coding For Supplies When Performing Wound Dressing Changes

**Question:** I know Medicare does not cover wound dressing changes, but what about the creams and sprays obtained from the pharmacy used in the care of the patient (e.g., silvadene, theragesic cream, etc.)?

Hawaii Subscriber

Test your coding knowledge. Determine how you would code this situation before looking at the box below for the answer.

**Answer:** The supplies would probably not be paid by Medicare, but would instead be bundled into the treatment or office visit. Other insurers might pay for the supplies, however, so if Medicare denies the claim, it could be sent to a secondary insurer.

Although billing for supplies such as silvadene may not be financially worth your time if you are only using it occasionally, that would change if you are treating patients with it on a daily basis. At that point, the cost would begin to add up, and you might consider a policy of sending all these claims to the patients secondary or private insurer.