

Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

Reader Question: Seize the Size to Code the Tumor Right

Question: If the physician documents removal of a tumor from the foot, how should I code for the procedure?

Alabama Subscriber

Answer: You must check the patient's records for indications that the mass is musculoskeletal in origin, such as a reference to "soft tissue." Tumor removal codes fall under the 20000 code series. You must also check for indications of the size of the excised tumor since CPT® provides codes for specific sizes, as follows:

- 28039 □ Excision, tumor, soft tissue of foot or toe, subcutaneous; 1.5 cm or greater
- 28041 □ ... subfascial (e.g., intramuscular); 1.5 cm or greater
- 28043 □ ... subcutaneous; less than 1.5 cm
- 28045 □ ... subfascial (e.g., intramuscular); less than 1.5 cm
- 28046 □ Radical resection of tumor (e.g., sarcoma), soft tissue of foot or toe; less than 3 cm
- 28047 □ ... 3 cm or greater.