

CBR202107: Wound Debridement Guidance and Considerations



Caution

As you perform your internal compliance reviews, keep the following in mind:

Ambulatory procedures treating the skin are vulnerable to improper payments, primarily as the result of insufficient documentation.

Source: [2020 Medicare Fee-for-Service Supplemental Improper Payment Data](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS.gov.



Review

Review encounter documentation and choose your code carefully, according to the service provided to the patient and the services documented for the encounter. Remember, if it was not documented, it was not done!



Implement: Wound Debridement Services

Help reduce the possibility of improper payments by selecting the proper Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) code, based on the coding guidelines. Consider the following guidelines for debridement from the American Medical Association's *CPT® 2021 Professional Edition*:

“Wound debridements are reported by depth of tissue that is removed and by surface area of the wound. These services may be reported for injuries, infections, wounds, and chronic ulcers. When performing debridement of a single wound, report depth using the deepest level of tissue removed. In multiple wounds, sum the surface area of those wounds that are at the same depth, but do not combine sums from different depths.”