

CBR202202: Podiatry: Nail Debridement and Evaluation and Management (E&M) Services

Guidance and Considerations



Caution

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

Podiatry services are vulnerable to improper payments, particularly as the result of insufficient documentation and incorrect coding.

Source: [2021 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: Nail Debridement Services

Help reduce the possibility of improper payments by taking the following actions:

- Perform nail debridement services appropriate to each patient's clinical care
- Confirm the correct use of modifier 25 (i.e., for acute and active treatment)
- Review Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) codes and modifiers to ensure correct code assignment
- Perform reviews of documentation and code selection on a recurring schedule to ensure accuracy and compliance