

# Catch the Coding Wave

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## Happy New Year 2014!

### FEATURED ARTICLE:

## Wound Debridement CPT Codes 11042-11047

CPT 11042 Debridement, subcutaneous tissue (includes epidermis and dermis, if performed); first 20 square cm or less.

CPT +11045 (add-on code for 11042) each additional 20 square cm, or part thereof.

CPT 11043 Debridement, muscle and/or fascia (includes epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous tissue, if performed); first 20 square cm or less.

CPT +11046 (add-on code for 11043) each additional 20 square cm, or part thereof.

CPT 11044 Debridement, bone (includes epidermis, dermis, subcutaneous tissue, muscle and/or fascia, if performed); first 20 square cm or less.

CPT +11047 (add-on code for 11044) each additional 20 square cm, or part thereof.

Wound debridement codes should be selected by depth of tissue and surface area treated. Wound debridement includes treatment for injuries, infections, wounds and chronic ulcers. These services have specific rules for coding as outlined below. For a single wound, report depth using the deepest level of tissue removed. For multiple wounds, sum together the surface area for all wounds of the same depth. Do NOT add together wounds from different depths. Surface area is determined by multiplying the length times the width of the wound.

Documentation should include: anatomic location(s), depth of debridement and surface area of the wound(s). It is also important to document any characteristics of the wound and/or conditions of the patient which support medical necessity.

#### Wound Debridement Reminders:

- 1) CPT 11042-11047 carry zero global days.
- 2) CPT 11045, CPT 11046 and CPT 11047 are all add-on codes; therefore, they are Modifier 51 exempt.
- 3) When more than one procedure code is performed for a patient on a date of service, be sure to check for NCCI bundling (Encoder) and append a modifier **if appropriate**.
- 4) When a CPT code is repeated, **consider** modifier 59 for commercial carriers and modifier 76 for Medicare.

**Scenario # 1:** Provider performs debridement of a right hand wound, subcutaneous depth, surface area 20 square cm and debridement of a left hand wound, subcutaneous depth, surface area 15 square cm. Because the wounds are of the same depth, sum them together and select your codes. The appropriate codes are CPT 11042 (first 20 square cm) and CPT +11045 (the remaining 15 square cm).

**Scenario # 2:** Provider performs debridement of a left leg wound, muscle/fascia depth, surface area 18 square cm and debridement of a right leg wound, subcutaneous depth, surface area 20 square cm. Because the wounds are not the same depth, do not sum them together; instead, code them separately. The appropriate codes are CPT 11043 and CPT 11042-59. These two codes are part of an NCCI combination; therefore, the provider should determine if Modifier 59 is appropriate to unbundle the codes. In this situation, because the wounds are different sites, Modifier 59 is appropriate. Modifier 59 should always be appended to the secondary/component code in an NCCI combination **if Modifier 59 is appropriate**.



## Implementation is 10/1/2014

Below is a list of the ICD-10 book chapters and their code range. There are 21 chapters and they all begin with a letter.

Chapter 1: Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00-B99)

Chapter 2: Neoplasms (C00-D49)

Chapter 3: Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the Immune Mechanism (D50-D89)

Chapter 4: Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00-E89)

Chapter 5: Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01-F99)

Chapter 6: Diseases of the Nervous System (G00-G99)

Chapter 7: Diseases of Eye and Adnexa (H00-H59)

Chapter 8: Diseases of Ear and Mastoid Process (H60-H95)

Chapter 9: Diseases of the Circulatory System (I00-I99)

Chapter 10: Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00-J99)

Chapter 11: Diseases of the Digestive System (K00-K94)

Chapter 12: Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue (L00-L99)

Chapter 13: Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue (M00-M99)

Chapter 14: Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00-N99)

Chapter 15: Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium (O00-O9A)

Chapter 16: Certain Conditions originating in the Perinatal Period (P00-P96)

Chapter 17: Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00-Q99)

Chapter 18: Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (R00-R99)

Chapter 19: Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Cause (S00-T88)

Chapter 20: External Causes of Morbidity (V00-Y99)

Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00-Z99)

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## DID YOU KNOW? (Coding related snippets)

CPT 69210 has been revised effective 01/01/2014. The new code description states "Removal impacted cerumen, requiring instrumentation, unilateral". This revision is important for several reasons:

- 1) Instrumentation is required (and should be documented). As previously, do not use this code for lavage/ear washing.
- 2) Unilateral indicates the code may now be reported with modifier 50 when performed bilaterally.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please feel free to contact Cristy Donaldson at 865-670-6177 or [cdonaldson@mc.utmck.edu](mailto:cdonaldson@mc.utmck.edu)

*Wave Goodbye 2013.....New Tides are rolling in 2014!*

