# Coding, Compliance, and Documentation for Surgical Dressings

### Jeffrey D. Lehrman, DPM, FASPS, MAPWCA, CPC

Board of Directors, American Professional Wound Care Association Editorial Advisory Board, WOUNDS Board of Directors, American Society of Podiatric Surgeons Advisor, APMA Coding Committee Expert Panelist, Codingline Advisor, APMA MACRA Task Force Fellow, American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management Twitter: @DrLehrman

# **Surgical Dressings covered by Medicare Part B if:**

- They are Medically Necessary
- When debridement of an ulcer is medically necessary and it was debrided
- They are used in the treatment of a ulcer caused by or treated by a surgical procedure
- Drainage is documented

# **Dressing Types**

### Primary Dressing

Therapeutic or protective covering applied directly to wounds or lesions either on the skin or caused by an opening to the skin

### Secondary Dressing

Materials that serve a therapeutic or protective function and that are needed to secure a primary dressing.



Enhances wound contracture Enhances cellular migration Lacking in chronic wounds Helps recruit fibroblasts Attracts monocytes Acts as a sacrificial substrate to MMPs



- Absorbent, conformable and non-adherent
- Document mild or moderate drainage
- Available in pads, particles, powders, paste and ribbons/strips
- Can use in different types of wounds
- Provide matrix for tissue and vessel growth
- Primary Dressing Requires a Secondary Dressing



Covered when Medically Necessary and have one of:

Full thickness wounds - OR -

- Wounds with light to moderate exudate
   OR -
- Wounds that have stalled or have not progressed toward a healing goal

CM

+X5.25

CP

CM

SXS

CM

### Not covered for:

- Ulcers with heavy exudate
- Third degree burns
- Active vasculitis

# Collagen Pad Codes



### ► A6021

Collagen dressing <16 sq. cm., per pad

# ► A6022

Collagen dressing >16 square inches and less than or equal to 48 square inches per pad dispensed

Max Allowable 30 Pads per Month per Ulcer

# Collagen Powder Code

BIOACTIVE COLLAGEN

R Only STERILE

- Dressing

A6010 Collagen powder, per gram

> Max Allowable 30 Grams per Month per Ulcer



### Highly absorbent

- Must document moderate to heavy drainage
- Must document full thickness (Stage III or IV)
- Bordered and non-bordered
- Can be a filler in dead space
- Do not combine with hydrogels
- Primary or secondary dressing

# Bordered Foam Pad Codes



### ► A6212

Foam pads *with* adhesive borders 16 square inches or less

# ► A6213

Foam pads *with* adhesive borders >16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.

Max Allowable 12 Pads per Month per Ulcer

# Non-Bordered Foam Pad Codes



### ► A6209

Foam pads *without* adhesive borders 16 square inches or less

### ► A6210

Foam pads *without* adhesive borders >16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.

Max Allowable 12 Pads per Month per Ulcer

# Calcium Alginates



- Brown seaweed
- Highly absorbent
- Must document moderate to heavy drainage
- Must document full thickness (Stage III or IV)
- Do not combine with hydrogels
- Available in different shapes / sizes
- Interacts with wound exudate to form a moist gel
- May use in infected wounds
- Primary dressing Requires a Secondary Dressing

# Calcium Alginate Codes



# A6196 < 16 sq. in., each dressing</li> A6197 > 16 sq. in. and < 48 sq. in., each dressing</li>

Max Allowable 30 Dressings per Month per Ulcer



### Secondary dressing

# Bordered Gauze Codes



### ► A6219

Gauze, non-impregnated, sterile, pad size 16 sq. in. or less, with any size adhesive border, each dressing

# ► A6220

Gauze, non-impregnated, sterile, pad size more than 16 sq. in. But less than or equal to 48 sq. in., with any size adhesive

Max Allowable 30 Dressings per Month per Ulcer

# Hydrogels



- Must document zero to light drainage
- Must document full thickness (Stage III or IV)
- Available in different forms
- Helps maintain a moist healing environment

# Hydrogel Codes



Not wt. 1 oz. (28g)

► A6248

Hydrogel dressing, wound filler, gel, per fluid ounce

Max Allowable 3 oz. per Month per Ulcer

# Hydrocolloid



# Must document light to moderate exudate.

# ► A6234

Hydrocolloid dressing, wound cover, sterile, pad size 16 sq. In. Or less, without adhesive border, each dressing.

Max Allowable 12 Units per Month per Ulcer

# WOUND CARE PRODUCT GUIDE

	<b>Minimal Drainage</b> Stage III, IV/Full Thickness	<b>Moderate Drainage</b> Stage III, IV/Full Thickness	Heavy Drainage Stage III, IV/Full Thickness
ALGINATES Up to 30/wound/month HCPCS Codes: A6196-A6199		MODERATE & HEA	VY DRAINAGE ONLY
<b>COLLAGENS*</b> Up to 30 pads or grams/wound/month HCPCS Codes: A6010-A6011, A6021-A6024	PAD/POWDE GEL	ER/PARTICLE	
FOAMS Up to 12/wound/month HCPCS Codes: A6209-A6215		MODERATE & HEA	VY DRAINAGE ONLY
HYDROCOLLOIDS Up to 12 sheets/wound/month HCPCS Codes: A6234-A6241	MINIMAL & MODER	ATE DRAINAGE ONLY	
HYDROGELS Up to 30 pads or 3oz./wound/month HCPCS Codes: A6231-A6233, A6242-A6248	SHEETS AND GAUZE G	EL	



#### WRAP/GAUZE/TAPE

Gauze - HCPCS Codes: A6216-A6221 Tape - HCPCS Codes: A4450, A4452

Secondary dressings hold the primary dressing in place and provide a physical barrier to reduce the incidence of contamination and infection. Options vary based on wound type, location and primary dressing requirements.



#### COMPRESSION GARMENTS HCPCS Code: A6545

Compression garments are used in the treatment of an open venous stasis ulcer. These garments are applied directly over the secondary dressing to reduce edema associated with venous insufficiency.

# **Do Not Conflict Dressing Types**

- Different change frequencies
- Different indications



### Size of dressing dispensed should be appropriate based on size of the ulcer being treated





- Medically necessary
- Based on size and change frequency
- Not always the max
- Need may change throughout care

#### UMENTATION<sup>®</sup> ENT (CPT 97597 & CPT 11042 - 11047)

#### CUMENTATION MENT (CDT OFFOR

# SUGGESTED DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION ORTAINED FROM: Novitas Solutions LCD L35125 (Wound Care services performed on or after 09/20/2017) **Reference Novitas Solutions LCD L35125 (Wound Care) For:** Delaware, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas

### SUGGESTED DOCUMENTATION

FOR ULCER DEBRIDEMENT (CPT 97597 & CPT 11042 - 11047)

#### INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM: FCS0 LCD L37166 (Wound Care services performed on or after 10/19/2017)



Reference FCS0 LCD L37166 (Wound Care) For: Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands



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# **Documentation**

- ► Type of ulcer
- Presence/absence of necrotic tissue
- ► Ulcer location, Size, and Depth
- Amount of Drainage
- ► Has the ulcer been debrided
- Instrument for debridement

- Anesthesia used. If not, why not?
- Depth of debridement
- Depth of debridement pre and post debridement measurements
- Dressings applied in office
- Treatment Plan

# **Documentation (Cont.)**

- Type of dressing dispensed
- Dressing size
- Number of dressings dispensed
- Number of wounds being treated
- Frequency of dressing changes
- Anticipated duration of dressing requirement

# **Documentation for Debridement** (Example)

Attention was directed to the ulcer on the

A sterile prep of the area (was | was not) performed. A (scalpel | scissors | curette) was utilized for sharp debridement to remove the (hyperkeratotic rim) and (necrotic tissue | devitalized tissue | fibrotic tissue) from the wound bed. Debridement was carried out to the depth of (dermis | subcutaneous tissue | muscle/fascia | bone). A total of \_\_\_\_\_\_ sq cm of tissue was removed from the deepest depth of the wound debrided. Hemostasis was obtained with (pressure | electric cautery | chemical cautery). Upon completion, the wound was dressed with \_\_\_\_\_\_.

The indication for this debridement was \_\_\_\_\_

Above template based on FCSO LCD L37166 (Wound Care) for Florida, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. Practices outside this area should consult the guidelines for the DME MAC in their area. This template does not suggest that only this information should be documented. All pertinent patient information should be documented. The information on this slide does not reflect or guarantee coverage or payment.

#### UMENTATION<sup>®</sup> ENT (CPT 97597 & CPT 11042 - 11047)

#### CUMENTATION MENT (CDT OFFOR

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#### INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM: FCS0 LCD L37166 (Wound Care services performed on or after 10/19/2017)



Reference FCS0 LCD L37166 (Wound Care) For: Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands



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### Always Have...

- Proof of Delivery (POD)
- Supplier Standards
- ► Warranty
- Instructions
- ► R<sub>x</sub> in Chart\*\* (SWO)
- ► Place of Service Home (12)

# **Proof of Delivery**

### Maintain in Dr. Records

### Patient name

- Address where item was delivered (i.e., Practice Address)
- Description of the item
- Quantity delivered
- Patient or designee signature
- Date delivered

	PROOF OF DELIVERY (COMPRESSION GA PROOF OF DELIVERY (RECEIPT OF DME KIT SUPPLIES) DELIVERY ADDRESS*:							
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ELIVER	Y ADDRESS*	"Where the product was handed/delivered to the patient (i.e. Practice Address)		s				
TIENT	NAME:	DOB: DATE:						
QTY	ITEM SIZE	PRESCRIBED ITEM AND DESCRIPTION	HCPCS CODE	ODE				
		- Hydrogel (1oz., 3oz.) - Hydrogel, Wound Filler, Gel, Per Fluid Ounce	A6248	ODE				
		- Calcium Alginate Dressing (2x2, 4x4) - Alginate or Other Fiber Gelling Dressing, Wound Cover, Sterile, Pad Size 16 Sq. In. or Less, Each Dressing	A6196	5				
		- Foam Dressing (222, 424) - Foam Dressing, Wound Cover, Sterile, Pad Size 16 Sq. In. or Less, W/Out Adhesive Border, Each Dressing	A6209					
	+	Bordered Foam Dressing (1x3.5) - Adhesive bandage, first-aid type, any size, each	A6413					
		- Bordered Foam Dressing (3x4, 4x4, 6x6) - Foam Dressing, Wound Cover, Sterile, Pad Size 16 Sq. In. or Less, W/ Any Size Adhesive Border, Each Dressing	A6212	4				
		Bordered Gauze Dressing (2x2, 4x4) - Gauze, Non-impregnated, Sterile, Pad Size 16 Sq. In. or Less, W/ Any Size Adhesive Border, Each Dressing	A6219					
		<ul> <li>Bordered Gauze Dressing (6x6) - Gauze, Non-impregnated, Sterile, Pad Size More Than 16 Sq. In. But Less Than or Equal to 48 Sq. In., W/ Any Size Adhesive Border, Each Dressing</li> </ul>	A6220	IGE				
		Hinde Control Collar of the second seco	A6234					
		Hydrocolloid Dressing (2x2, 4x4) - Hydrocolloid Dressing, Wound Cover, Sterile, Pad Size     16 Sq. In. or Less, W/Out Adhesive Border	A6234	and				
		Collagen Powder (1g.) - Collagen Based Wound Filler, Dry Form, Sterile, Per Gram of Collagen	A6010	mal				
		Collagen Matrix (2x2, 3x4) - Collagen Dressing, Sterile, Size 16 Sq. In. or Less, Each	A6021	ials der				
		Collagen Matrix (4x5.25) - Collagen Dressing, Sterile, Size More Than 16 Sq. In. But Less Than or Equal to 48 Sq. In., Each	A6022	ity.				
		Collagen Matrix (7x7) - Collagen Dressing, Sterile, Size More Than 48 sg. in., each	A6023	nd				
		Collagen Gel (30g) - Collagen Based Wound Filler, Gel/Paste, Per Gram of Collagen	A6011	ed				
use and i u are subj rds conce	RRANTY INFORI not substandard ect to the supplie rn business profe	SERIAL/LOT NUMBER: MATION: By signing below, I am certifying that I have received the above designated item and that the item in any way. Due to the medical nature of these devices, they cannot be returned. The products and/or serve re standards contained in the Federal regulations shown at 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 424.5(7) essional and operational matters (e.g. honoring warranties and hours of operation). The full text of these sta	ices provided to .). These stan-					
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		edge and understand all of the above.						
		URE:WITNESS:						

### Always Have...

- Proof of Delivery (POD)
- Supplier Standards
- ► Warranty
- Instructions
- ► Place of Service Home (12)
- ► R<sub>x</sub> in Chart\*\* (SWO)

# **Standard Written Order – Effective 1-1-20**

### Must Contain:

- Beneficiary's name or MBI
- Order Date
- Description of the item:
  - Can be general description, a HCPCS code, a HCPCS code narrative, or a brand name/model number
- Quantity to be dispensed
- Treating Practitioner Name or NPI
- Treating practitioner's signature



# SWO

### **► EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

When the prescribing practitioner is also the supplier, and is permitted to furnish specific items of DMEPOS, a separate order is not required, provided the medical record contains all of the required order elements.

### **New Order Needed If:**

- New Dressing is Added
- Quantity is Increased
- Three Months

# **KX Modifier?**



- Surgical Dressings:
  - Medicare X NO
  - Some privates ✓ YES

# HCFA 1500

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#### HCFA 1500

- Box 24A Date patient receives Surgical Dressing
- ► Box 24B Place of Service Home (12)
- ► Box 24D HCPCS code
- ► Box 24F \$ CHARGES for supplies dispensed.
- ► Box 24G Number of units dispensed to the patient.

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## Indicate # of Wounds Being Treated

"A\_"

#### In Box 24D Modifier of the HCFA 1500 form

- If one wound being treated: A1
- If two wounds being treated: A2
- If three wounds being treated: A3
- If four wounds being treated.....

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2														

### Indicate # of Wounds Being Treated

"A\_"

## Do not use "A#" with A6531, A6532, A6545 Use "AW" with A6531, A6532, A6545



#### Not Covered if...

- Part A stay (SNF)
- ► Hospice
- ► Home Health Care
- ► Applied in Office



#### **HCPC CODING GUIDANCE UPDATE**

#### SURGICAL DRESSINGS

(800) 448-9599

## Compression



Gradient compression wrap, nonelastic below knee, 30-50 mm hg, each



#### **Compression Code** A6545

- ► To be covered must have:
  - Open venous stasis ulcer
  - Had debridement
- Do Not use A\_(number)\_ modifier

- Must use AW modifier Item furnished in conjunction with a surgical dressing
- Must use LT / RT modifier(s)

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## **Use Laterality Modifiers for Compression Garment!** Effective 3-1-19

Two of the same item on the same date of service and the items are being used bilaterally



#### After 3-1-19

- Each item on its own line
- RT mod and LT mod only
- Each line respective units

## Compression Code

A6545 One per 6 months per leg

## Why Dispense DME? Increased Quality

#### **NON-DISPENSING PHYSICIAN**

- ► Was R<sub>X</sub> Filled?
- Did Patient receive the prescribed high-quality wound care supplies or generic products of unknown quality?
- ► Was the patient compliant?

#### **DISPENSING PHYSICIAN**

- $\triangleright$  R<sub>X</sub> Filled the Same Day.
- Patient receives the high-quality wound care supplies prescribed by the doctor at the office.
- Studies show 60-70% increase in compliance rates when patients leave doctor's office with products in-hand.

## Thank You!!



# Coding, Compliance, and Documentation for Surgical Dressings

#### Jeffrey D. Lehrman, DPM, FASPS, MAPWCA, CPC

Advisor, APMA Coding Committee Expert Panelist, Codingline Advisor, APMA MACRA Task Force Fellow, American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management Board of Directors, American Society of Podiatric Surgeons Board of Directors, American Professional Wound Care Association Editorial Advisory Board, WOUNDS Twitter: @DrLehrman