

Clinical Policy: Excision of Lesions

Reference Number: TX.CP.MP.525

Last Review Date: 09/23

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Description

This policy provides medical necessity guidelines for authorizing excision of lesions. This policy applies to the following products: STAR, STAR+PLUS, STAR Health, STAR Kids, and CHIP.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of Superior HealthPlan that excision of benign skin lesions, including, but not limited to, seborrheic keratoses, warts, sebaceous cysts, congenital nevi, skin tags, and pilomatrixomata are **medically necessary** when the member presents with **one** of the following criteria:
 - A. Biopsy or clinical appearance suggests or is indicative of pre-malignancy or malignancy; or
 - B. Due to its anatomic location, the lesion has been subject to recurrent trauma; or
 - C. The lesion causes symptoms such as bleeding, burning, itching, or irritation; or
 - D. The lesion has evidence of inflammation such as edema, erythema, or purulence; or
 - E. The lesion is infectious or
 - F. The lesion restricts vision or obstructs a body orifice

➤ *Note: In the absence of any of the above indications, removal of skin lesions is considered cosmetic and should be **sent for medical director review**.*

Background

Definitions:

- **Congenital melanocytic nevi** - occur in approximately 1 % of newborns and are usually classified according to their size. Giant congenital melanocytic nevi are most simply defined as melanocytic nevi that are greater than 20 cm in largest dimension; whereas small congenital nevi are defined as melanocytic nevi less than 1.5 cm in largest dimension. Giant congenital melanocytic nevi are associated with an increased risk of the development of melanoma, and are therefore surgically removed. However, small congenital nevi do not need to be removed as the risk of malignant transformation is thought to be small or none. The management of intermediate sized congenital nevi is controversial, as the risk of malignant transformation and the lifetime melanoma risk in patients with intermediate sized congenital nevi is not known.
- **Pilomatrixoma** - also known as calcifying epithelioma of Malherbe, is a benign skin neoplasm that arises from hair follicle matrix cells. Pilomatrixoma is a common skin neoplasm in the pediatric population that is often mis-diagnosed as other skin conditions.
- **Seborrheic keratoses** - are non-cancerous growths of the outer layer of skin. They are usually brown, but can vary in color from beige to black, and vary in size from a fraction of an inch to more than an inch in diameter. They have the appearance of being glued or

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stuck on to skin. Seborrheic keratoses are most often found on the chest or back, although, they can also be found almost anywhere on the body. These become more common with age, and most elderly patients develop one or more of these lesions. Seborrheic keratoses can get irritated by clothing rubbing against them, and their removal may be medically necessary if they itch, get irritated, or bleed easily. Although seborrheic keratoses are non-cancerous, they may be difficult to distinguish from skin cancer if they turn black. Seborrheic keratoses may be removed by cryosurgery, curettage, or electrosurgery.

- **Sebaceous (keratinous) cyst** - is a slow-growing, benign cyst that contains follicular, keratinous, and sebaceous material. The sebaceous cyst is firm, globular, movable, and non-tender. These cysts seldom cause discomfort unless the cyst ruptures or becomes infected. Ranging in size, sebaceous cysts are usually found on the scalp, face, ears, and genitals. They are formed when the release of sebum from the sebaceous glands in the skin is blocked. Unless they become infected and painful or large, sebaceous cysts do not require medical attention or treatment, and usually go away on their own. Infected cysts can be incised and drained, or the entire cyst may be surgically removed.
- **Skin tag (arochondon)** - is a benign, soft, moveable, skin-colored growth that hangs from the surface of the skin on a thin piece of tissue called a stalk. The prevalence of skin tags increases with age. They appear most often in skin folds of the neck, armpits, trunk, beneath the breasts or in the genital region. They are painless, but may become painful if thrombosed or if irritated. They may become irritated if they occur in an area where clothing or jewelry rubs against them. Skin tags may be removed by excision, cryosurgery, or electrosurgery.

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2021, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT® Codes	Description
11300	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, trunk, arms or legs; lesion diameter 0.5 cm or less
11301	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, trunk, arms or legs; lesion diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11302	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, trunk, arms or legs; lesion diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm

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CPT® Codes	Description
11303	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, trunk, arms or legs; lesion diameter over 2.0 cm
11305	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; lesion diameter 0.5 cm or less
11306	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; lesion diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11307	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; lesion diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11308	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; lesion diameter over 2.0 cm
11310	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; lesion diameter 0.5 cm or less
11311	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; lesion diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11312	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; lesion diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11313	Shaving of epidermal or dermal lesion, single lesion, face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; lesion diameter over 2.0 cm
11400	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 0.5 cm or less
11401	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11402	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11403	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 2.1 to 3.0 cm
11404	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 3.1 to 4.0 cm
11406	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter over 4.0 cm
11420	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 0.5 cm or less
11421	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11422	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11423	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 2.1 to 3.0 cm
11424	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 3.1 to 4.0 cm

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CPT® Codes	Description
11426	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter over 4.0 cm

HCPCS Codes	Description
N/A	

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
N/A	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Updated CPT codes, work process, references and signatories.	06/14	06/14
Removed work process and imbedded in attachment section.	02/15	02/15
Removed CPT 11440-11444, 11446. Updated TMMP to 2015. Removed work process attachment. Updated References.	06/15	06/15
Removed CPT 11450, 11451, 11462, 11470 and 11471. Updated TMHP to 2016. Removal of Acquired Nevi, Actinic Keratoses, Bowen's disease and Lentigo Maligna from definitions. Grammatical edits. Updated references and signatories.	06/16	06/16
Added STAR Kids to Products. Removed code 11463.	08/16	08/16
Updated revisions from 08/16 that were omitted in error, and updated TMHP to 2017.	08/17	08/17
Updated review date, references, and signatures. Deleted revision history prior to 2014.	08/18	08/18
Updated to new template from TX.UM.10.25 (TX.CP.MP.525 nomenclature implementation 10/1/19). Updated references.	10/19	10/19
Annual Review. Updated References. Clarified language in Section I: "It is the policy of Superior HealthPlan that excision of benign skin lesions, including, but not limited to..."	09/20	9/20
Annual Review. Updated References.	9/21	9/21
Annual Review. Updated References.	09/22	09/22
Annual Review. Updated References.	09/23	9/23

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13. Texas Medicaid Providers Procedures Manual, Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physicians Assistants Handbook, 9.2.71.8 Office Procedures, August 2023.

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health



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plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs,



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and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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