

East Jefferson General Hospital

Documentation Tip: Debridement

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Types of Debridement

Excisional—this involves the cutting away of tissue, necrosis or slough and in ICD 10 coding falls under the root operation of “Excision.”

Non-excisional—defined as a non-operative brushing, irrigating, scrubbing or washing away of devitalized tissue. In ICD 10 this falls under the root operation of “Extraction”.

Needed documentation for coding of

Debridement:

- **Method:**
 - Excisional
 - Non-excisional
 - I&D
- **Depth:** (noting deepest layer)
 - Skin
 - Subcutaneous
 - Fascia
 - Muscle
 - Bone
- **Instrument:**
 - Blade/ Scalpel (size of blade used)
 - Scissors
 - Lavage
 - Curette
 - Waterjet

Other Key concepts:

- Location of debridement (include size of debrided area)
- Condition requiring debridement (ulcer, necrosis, abscess, etc.)
- Description of tissue removed (necrotic, devitalized, nonviable)

Documentation Tips

- Debridement documentation remains the same whether procedure is performed in OR, ER or at bedside.
- Wording used in documentation of excisional debridement greatly affects the code assigned to procedure.
- Sharp debridement does not equal excisional debridement.
- Description of debridement method must read “excisional” or that tissue was “excised.” We are required to query if one of those descriptors are not used.
- Complete documentation lessens the chance of recovery audits.

Example of Complete documentation for excisional debridement:

Procedure: Excisional debridement (descriptor) of 16x11cm sacral (location& size) decubitus ulcer (condition requiring debridement) including skin, subcutaneous tissue, muscle and bone.

Details of procedure: A #10 blade (instrument) was used to excise (method) necrotic tissue (description of tissue removed) which went through the skin, SQ tissue, muscle down to sacrum. Sacral bone exposed was excised. (depth)



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