



Western Australian Coding Rule

0110/15 Shaving of skin lesions

Q.

When a surgeon documents "shave lesions" of nose, should an excision or biopsy code be assigned? Possible suggestions are: 31230-01 [1620] *Excision of lesion of skin and subcutaneous tissue of nose* or 30071-00 [1618] *Biopsy of skin and subcutaneous tissue*?

A.

Documentation of "shaving of a lesion" would usually be interpreted to mean excision of lesion. However if a biopsy item number is provided, check the histopathology to see if the majority of the lesion was excised, to determine whether it is more likely an excision or biopsy.

If a lesion is shaved without documentation of "biopsy" then it should be coded as excision. If shave biopsy is documented, code as a biopsy. If the coder is unsure clarification should be sought from the clinician.

DECISION

For documentation of "shaving a lesion" assign code 31230-01 [1620] *Excision of lesion of skin and subcutaneous tissue of nose*.

[Effective 20 Jan 2010, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]