



Western Australian Coding Rule

0413/04 Trimming of tendon of hand

Q.

What code should be assigned for trimming of tendon of hand? Should this be coded to debridement or excision of tendon or not at all if it is a component of another procedure?

A.

Trimming of tendon of hand may be documented on the operation report during the repair of a laceration. There is no code for trimming of tendon, so clinical advice was sought as to how to code this procedure and whether it is a component of another procedure.

The advice given (paraphrased) was:

- Trimming of tendon should not be automatically coded to debridement as debridement is a more extensive procedure.
- Trimming of tendon may be performed prior to repair of tendon (e.g. by suture or graft). In this case the trimming is part of the repair and should not be coded separately.
- If trimming of tendon is performed alone, without repair, trimming may be coded as debridement.
- Note that this advice relates to trauma and not elective procedures.

DECISION

We recommend that coders follow the above advice and continue to exercise caution in coding debridement when the word does not appear.

[Effective 19 Apr 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]