

Purpose

This resource is intended to serve as a reference for wound documentation for debridement. This resource was developed utilizing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines and requirements and can be referenced for further details.

Excisional Debridement – Surgical removal of necrotic or devitalized tissue that, at a minimum, continues until healthy, viable bleeding tissue is encountered.

CPT Code	Description
11042	Debridement of subcutaneous tissue, which involves the removal of dead, damaged, or infected tissue to help a wound heal. This specific code applies when the debridement covers an area of 20 square centimeters or less .
+11045	Add-on code that can only be reported in conjunction with CPT 11042 to report each additional 20 sq. cm of subcutaneous tissue only
11043	Debridement, muscle and/or fascia (includes epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissue, if performed) first 20 sq. cm or less .
+11046	Debridement of muscle and/or fascia, which includes the epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissue, if performed, for each additional 20 cm ² or part thereof.

Reimbursement

CPT Code	CMS National Non-Facility Payment Amount 2026	wRVU
11042	\$133.60	0.98
11045	\$42.29	0.49
11043	\$241.01	2.63
11046	\$76.87	1.00

CPT Coding Instructions:

The CPT manual states that, “when performing debridement of a single wound, **report depth using the deepest level of tissue removed**. In multiple wounds, sum the surface area of those wounds that are at the same depth, but do not combine sums from different depths.”



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