

Wound Debridement Coding Accuracy Checklist (2025 Edition)

Section 1: Documentation Verification

- ☐ Wound size (pre and post debridement) - Document in cm2 (length x width).
- ☐ Wound depth - Specify tissue layer (dermis, subcutaneous, muscle, or bone).
- ☐ Tissue type removed - Use precise terms (slough, necrotic fat, devitalized muscle).
- ☐ Technique or instrument used - Example: scalpel, curette, hydro jet.
- ☐ Viable tissue endpoint - Indicate exposure of healthy bleeding tissue.
- ☐ Medical necessity justification - Example: 'Necrotic tissue delaying granulation'.
- ☐ Wound progress over time - Show improvement or ongoing need.
- ☐ Provider credentials and signature - Must match credentialing data.

Section 2: Coding and Modifier Accuracy

- ☐ CPT family selection - 97597-97598 (selective), 11042-11047 (surgical).
- ☐ Surface area calculation - Report per 20 sq cm; use add ons as needed.
- ☐ CPT and ICD-10 mapping - Ensure each wound links to correct diagnosis.
- ☐ No mixed-family coding - Do not report 97597 and 11042 on same site/date.
- ☐ Modifier 59/XU - Use for distinct wounds or anatomical sites.
- ☐ Modifier 25 - Only with separate, identifiable E/M service.
- ☐ NCCI edit review - Validate code pairings per payer rules.

Section 3: Payer and Policy Compliance

- ☐ Follow local Medicare LCD (e.g., L35125, L35041).
- ☐ Verify ongoing medical necessity for repeated debridements.
- ☐ Check documentation for healing progress.
- ☐ Include photos when required by payer.
- ☐ Avoid unbundled or duplicated codes.
- ☐ Ensure EHR data matches submitted claim data.

Section 4: Pre Submission Quality Control

- ☐ Review CPT codes and modifiers for accuracy.

☐ Confirm ICD-10 diagnosis aligns with wound type and severity.

☐ Validate total billed sq cm; no duplication.

☐ Audit documentation language for specificity.

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☐ Attach notes, photos, or required files.

☐ Clinical and billing review sign off.

Quick Coding Summary Reference

97597/97598 - Selective debridement (epidermis/dermis).

11042/11045 - Surgical debridement (subcutaneous).

11043/11046 - Excisional debridement of muscle.

11044/11047 - Excisional debridement of bone.

Internal Audit Tip

Conduct monthly/quarterly audits for compliance:

- Check CPT ICD pairing and modifier usage.

- Review wound progress documentation.

- Verify adherence to LCD requirements.

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