



Western Australian Coding Rule

0719/51 Laceration with debridement

ACCD Coding Rule ***Debridement of skin with suturing*** (Ref No: Q2977) was retired on 30 June 2019.

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Eleventh Edition (effective 1 July 2019), ACHI amendments were made for debridement. See also Eleventh Edition FAQs – Amended.



Western Australian Coding Rule

0415/09 Laceration with debridement

WA Coding Rule 0712/03 *Laceration with debridement* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***Debridement of skin with suturing*** (Ref No: Q2977) effective 1 April 2015; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0712/03 *Laceration with debridement* is retired.

[Effective 01 April 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]

RETIRED



Western Australian Coding Rule

0712/03 Laceration with debridement

Q.

Many patients who have a minor laceration will have it repaired but the wound edges are debrided to make it easier to stitch and give a better healing scar. In these cases should we code the repair of laceration plus a code for the debridement of wound?

A.

Debridement must always be coded when documented, except where there is specific instruction to the contrary. e.g. debridement bone, with any other orthopaedic procedure - omit code. If excisional debridement is documented on the operation report as well as the repair of the laceration only the excisional debridement needs to be coded. As per ACS 1203 ensure that the debridement is excisional and performed by a clinician.

One should exercise caution in coding debridement performed and documented by nurses or allied health personnel. These are more likely to be non-excisional.

In 10 AM Commandments, Vol 16 No1 it was highlighted that repair is a component of soft tissue debridement and does not need to be coded separately. There has been prior discussion clarifying that the same applies to excisional debridement of skin. Published documentation of this is absent and therefore needs to be ratified by this committee.

DECISION

When documented, debridement must always be coded except where there is a specific instruction to the contrary. We advise that in accordance with the advice published in Coding Matters Volume 16 Number 1 June 2009 under heading 'Excisional debridement', it is unnecessary to assign an additional code for suture of wound performed with excisional debridement as the suture is a component of the procedure. We extend this advice to include excisional debridement of skin with repair.

[Effective 11 July 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]