

## Melanoma Procedure (2018+) Coding Guide: Biopsies and Excisions

### Biopsies: Shave, Punch, Incisional OR Excisional

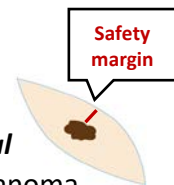
Can be **EITHER** DX/STAGING procedures OR SURGICAL procedures **DEPENDING on MARGIN STATUS.**

Biopsy MARGIN Status	Procedure Type	Code
<b>POSITIVE<sup>^</sup> (gross or microscopic)</b>	<b>DX/Staging</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>UNKNOWN<sup>^</sup> (not stated)</b>	<b>DX/Staging</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>NEGATIVE (microscopic)</b>	<b>Surgery</b>	<b>27</b>

<sup>^</sup>NOTE: These should be FOLLOWED by a SURGICAL EXCISION for clear margins.

### Excisions

Proper **surgical** coding of most melanoma excisions is dependent on the **size of the surgical “safety margin”** of normal tissue; that is, the distance of normal tissue away from the melanoma.



Biopsy followed by:	Surgical Safety Margin Size	Code
<b>GROSS EXCISION NOS</b>	NA	<b>31 (Shave), 32 (Punch) or 33 (Incisional)</b>
<b>RE-EXCISION NOS*</b>	<b>UNKNOWN (not stated)*</b>	<b>30*</b>
	≤ 1cm	<b>30-33 OR [Mohs 34-35] as applicable</b>
	<b>Micro NEG ≤ 1cm OR &gt; 1cm NOT microscopically confirmed</b>	<b>20-33 OR [Mohs 34-36] as applicable</b>
<b>MOHS SURGERY</b>	<b>UNKNOWN (not stated)</b>	<b>34</b>
	≤ 1cm	<b>35</b>
	> 1cm	<b>36</b>
<b>Wide Local Excision* (WLE)</b>	<b>UNKNOWN (not stated)*</b>	<b>30*</b>
	≤ 1cm	<b>30-33 OR [Mohs 34-35] as applicable</b>
	<b>&gt;1cm (TRUE WLE per SEER)</b>	<b>45-47+ (as applicable)</b>

\*Per SPCSM Appendix C Melanoma Skin C440-C449 Surgery Codes SEER NOTE #3; **†Code 47 includes amputation of a finger or toe**