

Melanoma Procedure (2018-2022‡) Coding Guide: Biopsies and Excisions

Biopsies: Shave, Punch, Incisional OR Excisional

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

Biopsy MARGIN Status	Procedure Type	Code
POSITIVE[^] (gross or microscopic)	DX/Staging	02
UNKNOWN[^] (not stated)	DX/Staging	02
NEGATIVE (microscopic)	Surgery	27

[^]NOTE: These should be FOLLOWED by a SURGICAL EXCISION for clear margins. **If NO SURGICAL EXCISION found AND:**

1. **UNK if performed** (no follow back [FB] conducted), code ALL surgical data items as **UNK (9's)**
2. MD OFC/Facility FB **VERIFIES NO additional SURGICAL EXCISION** was performed, code ALL surgical data items as **NOT DONE (0's) w/ FB findings stated in Surgical text**



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
GROSS EXCISION NOS	NA	31 (Shave), 32 (Punch) or 33 (Incisional)
RE-EXCISION NOS*	UNKNOWN (not stated)*	30*
	≤ 1cm	30-33 OR [Mohs 34-35] as applicable
	Micro NEG ≤ 1cm OR > 1cm NOT microscopically confirmed	20-33 OR [Mohs 34-36] as applicable
MOHS SURGERY	UNKNOWN (not stated)	34
	≤ 1cm	35
	> 1cm	36
Wide Local Excision* (WLE)	UNKNOWN (not stated)*	30*
	≤ 1cm	30-33 OR [Mohs 34-35] as applicable
	>1cm (TRUE WLE per SEER)	45-47† (as applicable)

*Per SPCSM Appendix C Melanoma Skin C440-C449 Surgery Codes SEER NOTE #3; †Code 47 includes amputation of a finger or toe; ‡ Effective 01/01/2023, ALL procedures will be coded as SURGERY (margin status no longer applies) EXCEPT for obvious diagnostic procedures. i.e. a core biopsy of large lesion