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Maxim Health Information Services is a division of Maxim Healthcare Services, the largest privately held healthcare staffing company in the nation. As part of a large business enterprise and a [leader in the industry](#), MHIS can help take your career to the

Welcome to the May issue of Maxim Coding CornerSM! As a leader in the HIM industry, [Maxim Health Information Services](#) (MHIS) is committed to providing you with updates on coding-related topics that matter to you.

This month, we are focusing on coding for excision of lesions. This procedure is often not properly documented, making coding for it particularly difficult. Read below to learn key facts about excision of lesions, and be sure to visit our [online job board](#) to search for positions nationwide in this coding specialty and many others. Our jobs are updated frequently, so check back often to view new opportunities!

Excision of Lesions Defined

Excision of a lesion is a surgical procedure to remove a small area of diseased or problematic tissue with a margin of normal tissue. This procedure is commonly performed on the breast and to skin lesions, but can be used on any area of the body.

What does that mean to coders? Nothing, if the following information is not documented:

- Site of lesion
- Size of lesion
- Type of lesion
- Number of lesions
- Method of removal (biopsy, excision, destruction, etc.)
- Type of closure
- Type of repair

Coding for Excision of Lesions

At some point, almost all coders have encountered documentation that was less than perfect, which reinforces the need to continue to educate caregivers so that they understand what information is needed in order to code appropriately. Although Maxim is not suggesting coding from incomplete documentation, the following definitions may help shed some light on the difficult task of coding excision of lesions.

next level. Now more than ever, hospitals and medical facilities understand the importance of hiring HIM staff to increase their bottom line. This has opened the door to many new [career opportunities](#) in the health information industry. MHIS staffs positions for on-site coders, remote coders, auditors, and more.

To learn more about Maxim Health Information Services and excision of lesions coding, visit us [online](#) or call 866-265-0589.

- Paring: peeling
- Curettage: scraping
- Incisional biopsy: removal of a portion of the lesion
- Excisional biopsy/excision: removal of entire lesion
- Punch biopsy: punch tool cuts through the sub-q layer
- Shave biopsy: transverse incision or horizontal slice made through the skin that just passes below the depth of the lesion

Rules for Coding Excision of Lesions

The following rules should be followed when coding excision of lesions of the integumentary system:

1. Make sure it is a lesion of the integumentary system.
2. An integumentary lesion is excised with full-thickness and through the dermis.
3. Simple repair is included in the code – do NOT code separately.
4. If adjacent tissue transfer was performed, only report this code – excision of lesion is included.
5. Also code intermediate or complex repair and reconstructive closure.
6. Each lesion removal is reported separately.
7. Excised diameter is the measurement of the lesion plus margins excised.
8. Prior to surgery, neuromas, lesions of the tendon, and muscle hernias often have the appearance of skin lesions. Check the path report!