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About Maxim Health Information Services

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 next level. Now more than ever, hospitals and medical facilities understand the importance of hiring HIM

Welcome to the April 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 skin grafts, which can be challenging for even the most experienced coders. Read below to learn key facts about skin graft coding, 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!

Skin Grafts Explained

Skin grafts are the process of transferring skin from one area to another. In order to reduce the threat of rejection, typically the patient's own skin is used. Other times, skin from a different source is used to graft the patient's wound.

There are three main types of skin graft techniques:

* **Split-thickness** - removal of the top layer of skin and a portion of the middle layer. This graft usually heals quickly, but is more fragile than other types.

* **Full-thickness** - removal and transfer of the total area of skin. This graft requires stitches to be placed. These types of grafts are usually performed in areas that will show, as they give a better cosmetic result.

* **Composite** - combinations of skin/fat, skin/cartilage, or dermis/fat are grafted. These are usually performed in areas that are three-dimensional, i.e. the nose.

Coding Skin Grafts Simplified

Coding skin grafts becomes difficult when only the product terms are documented, and the Physician does not state the type of graft. Below is a table of graft types and their definitions, the associated code, and examples of medical materials that may be used in the grafting. Knowing these different terms will help in the skin graft coding process.

Common Codes for Skin Grafts

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 skin graft coding, visit us [online](#) or call 866-265-0589.

GRAFT	CODE	DEFINITION	MATERIALS
Tissue cultured epidermal autograft	15150-15157	Cultured skin - only epidermal layer	Epicel, EpiDex, CEA
Acellular dermal replacement	15170-15176	A tissue-derived or manufactured device that provides immediate, temporary wound closure and incorporates into the wound, promoting the generation of a neodermis that can support epidermal tissue	Integra
Allograft skin	15300-15321	Cadaveric human skin	Skin banks
Acellular dermal allograft	15330-15336	Allogeneic dermis that requires immediate concurrent coverage with autologous tissue	Alloderm
Tissue cultured allogeneic skin substitute	15340-15341	Cultured allogeneic skin with both a dermal and epidermal layer	Apligraf
Tissue cultured allogeneic dermal substitute	15360-15366	Cultured allogeneic neonatal dermal fibroblasts	Transcyte, Dermagraft
Xenogeneic dermis	15400-15411	Not human	EZ Derm, Mediskin
Acellular xenograft implant	15430-15431	Decellularized porcine connective tissue comprised of small intestinal submucosa	Oasis, Surgisis