

## Recently Revised CPT Codes: Is Your Practice Up-to-Date?

Practices should already be aware of relevant 2009 code revisions, but here's a rundown of key changes for practices to review.

Each year brings a few changes in CPT codes. There may be new codes, codes revised through addition or deletion of text, or codes for which portions of the text are rewritten.

By this point in the year, practices hopefully are aware of 2009 CPT Code changes relevant to dermatology, though there may be some confusion about what specifically was changed. Some practices may not be aware of changes to codes they use less frequently. To be sure your practice is current, here's a look at several revised codes that are of interest to dermatology.

### Revised Codes

**Prolonged Service Codes – 99354 – 99357:** Clinical examples removed from definition.

**Preventive Medicine Codes – 99381 – 99397:** Removal of language regarding immunizations.

**Debridement Code – 11001:** Language added to show that an additional portion of body area for coding purposes does not have to be a full 10% “each additional 10% of body area or part thereof...”

**Skin tag removal – 11201:** Language added to show that an additional number of skin tags removed after the first fifteen does not have to be an additional 10; “each additional 10 lesions, or part thereof...”

**Intermediate repairs – 12031 – 12057:** “Layer closure” deleted, “Repair, intermediate” added.

**Full thickness graft codes, 15201, 15221, 15241, 15261:** Language added to show that an additional portion of body area for coding purposes does not have to be a full 20 sq. cm. “each additional 20 sq. cm. or portion thereof.”

**Tissue Cultured allogenic skin substitute – 15341:** Language indicating that additional area covered does not have to be a full 25 sq. cm. and that the code is used in addition to a primary code. “Each additional 25 sq. cm. or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).”



CPT Code 96372 replaces 90772 for injections.

**Injections – 90772:** Has been replaced by 96372, Therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic injection (specify substance or drug); subcutaneous or intramuscular. ■

### Verify Coverage

In a tight economy, it's as important as ever to verify insurance coverage and check for changes in co-pays. Data suggest that employers are seriously contemplating options to maintain or cut healthcare costs. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (Kaiser) and the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), employer-sponsored insurance is the leading source of health insurance—covering about 158 million non-elderly people in America. But according to their September 2008 survey, nearly half of employers (45 percent) were somewhat or very likely to increase employees' co-pay costs for office visits in 2009.