

# LCD - Debridement Services (L33614)

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## Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATES
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part A	06101 - MAC A	J - 06	Illinois
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part B	06102 - MAC B	J - 06	Illinois
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part A	06201 - MAC A	J - 06	Minnesota
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part B	06202 - MAC B	J - 06	Minnesota
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part A	06301 - MAC A	J - 06	Wisconsin
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	MAC - Part B	06302 - MAC B	J - 06	Wisconsin
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13101 - MAC A	J - K	Connecticut
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13102 - MAC B	J - K	Connecticut
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13201 - MAC A	J - K	New York - Entire State
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13202 - MAC B	J - K	New York - Downstate
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13282 - MAC B	J - K	New York - Upstate
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	13292 - MAC B	J - K	New York - Queens
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14111 - MAC A	J - K	Maine
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14112 - MAC B	J - K	Maine
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14211 - MAC A	J - K	Massachusetts
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14212 - MAC B	J - K	Massachusetts

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATES
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14311 - MAC A	J - K	New Hampshire
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14312 - MAC B	J - K	New Hampshire
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14411 - MAC A	J - K	Rhode Island
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14412 - MAC B	J - K	Rhode Island
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14511 - MAC A	J - K	Vermont
<a href="#">National Government Services, Inc.</a>	A and B and HHH MAC	14512 - MAC B	J - K	Vermont

# LCD Information

## Document Information

### LCD ID

L33614

### LCD Title

Debridement Services

### Proposed LCD in Comment Period

N/A

### Source Proposed LCD

[DL33614](#)

### Original Effective Date

For services performed on or after 10/01/2015

### Revision Effective Date

For services performed on or after 11/07/2019

### Revision Ending Date

N/A

### Retirement Date

N/A

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**Notice Period Start Date**

02/15/2016

**Notice Period End Date**

03/31/2016

**CMS National Coverage Policy**

Language quoted from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and coverage provisions in interpretive manuals is italicized throughout the policy. NCDs and coverage provisions in interpretive manuals are not subject to the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Review Process (42 CFR 405.860[b] and 42 CFR 426 [Subpart D]). In addition, an administrative law judge may not review an NCD. See Section 1869(f)(1)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act.

Unless otherwise specified, *italicized* text represents quotation from one or more of the following CMS sources:

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (SSA):

Section 1862(a)(1)(A) excludes expenses incurred for items or services which are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.

Section 1833(e) prohibits Medicare payment for any claim which lacks the necessary information to process the claim.

CMS Publications:

CMS Publication 100-02, *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*, Chapter 16:

120 Cosmetic Surgery

**Coverage Guidance****Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity****Abstract:**

Debridement is the removal of infected, contaminated, damaged, devitalized, necrotic, or foreign tissue from a wound. The codes in this local coverage determination (LCD) cover debridement of skin, subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscle, bone and removal of foreign material. Debridement promotes wound healing by reducing sources of infection and other mechanical impediments to healing. Its goal is to cleanse the wound, reduce bacterial contamination and provide an optimal environment for wound healing or possible surgical intervention. The usual end point of debridement is removal of pathological tissue and/or foreign material until healthy tissue is exposed. Debridement techniques include, among others, sharp and blunt dissection, curettement, scrubbing, and forceful irrigation. Surgical instruments may include a scrub brush, irrigation device, electrocautery, laser, sharp curette, forceps, scissors, burr or scalpel. Prior to debridement, determination of the extent of an ulcer/wound may be aided by the use of blunt probes to determine wound/ulcer depth and to disclose abscess and sinus tracts.

This LCD does not apply to debridement of burned surfaces. Regulations concerning the use of debridement of burned surfaces codes are not addressed in this LCD. This LCD does not apply to debridement of nails and the

provider is referred to NGS LCD Routine Foot Care and Debridement of Nails (L33636).

**Indications:**

Debridement is indicated for any wound requiring removal of deep seated foreign material, devitalized or nonviable tissue at the level of skin, subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscle or bone, to promote optimal wound healing or to prepare the site of appropriate surgical intervention.

Conditions that may require debridement of large amounts of skin include: rapidly spreading necrotizing process (sometimes seen with aggressive streptococcal infections), severe eczema, bullous skin diseases, extensive skin trauma (including large abraded areas with ground-in dirt), or autoimmune skin diseases (such as pemphigus).

Debridement services for subcutaneous tissue muscle or fascia or bone are appropriate for treatment of skin ulcers, circumscribed dermal infections, conditions affecting contiguous deeper structures, and debridement of deep-seated debris from any number of injury types.

Debridement for osteomyelitis is covered for chronic osteomyelitis and osteomyelitis associated with an open wound.

Debridement of superficial ulcers (skin, dermis and/or epidermis, whenever necrotic tissue is present in an open wound may also be indicated. They may also be indicated in cases of abnormal wound healing or repair. These services will not be considered a reasonable and necessary procedure for a wound that is clean and free of necrotic tissue.

- The wound care performed must be in accordance with accepted standards of medical practice. If debridement is performed, the type of debridement should be appropriate to the type of wound and the devitalized tissue, and the patient's condition. Not all wounds require debridement at each session or the same level of debridement at each session. It is unusual to debride more than one time per week for more than three months. A greater frequency or duration of selective debridement should be justified in the documentation. Most very small wounds do not require selective debridement. Ulcers that may require selective debridement are typically larger than 2 x 2 cm. Wounds with tunneling, regardless of size, may require selective debridement. Selective debridement is usually not reasonable and necessary for blisters, ulcers smaller than those described above and uninfected ulcers with clear borders.
- Debridement of the wound(s) if indicated must be performed judiciously and at appropriate intervals. It is expected that, with appropriate care, and no extenuating medical or surgical complications or setbacks, wound volume or surface dimension should decrease over time. It is also expected the wound care treatment plan is modified in the event that appropriate healing is not achieved. It is expected that co-morbid conditions that may interfere with normal wound healing have been addressed; the etiology of the wound has been determined and addressed as well as addressing patient compliance issues. This may include, for example, evaluation of pulses, ABI and/or possible consultation with a vascular surgeon.

The number of debridement services required is variable and depends on numerous intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Debridement services are covered provided all significant relevant comorbid conditions are addressed that could interfere with optimal wound healing.

**Limitations:**

If there is no necrotic, devitalized, fibrotic, or other tissue or foreign matter present that would interfere with wound healing, the debridement service is not medically necessary. The presence or absence of such tissue or foreign

matter must be documented in the medical record.

Debridement area greater than 10% is limited to those practitioners who are licensed to perform surgery above the ankle, since the amount of skin required is more than that contained on both feet.

Skin breakdown under a dorsal corn is not considered an ulcer and generally does not require debridement. These lesions typically heal without significant surgical intervention beyond removal of the corn and shoe modification

### Summary of Evidence

N/A

### Analysis of Evidence (Rationale for Determination)

N/A

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## General Information

### Associated Information

N/A

### Sources of Information

N/A

### Bibliography

N/A

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## Revision History Information

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION	REASONS FOR CHANGE
11/07/2019	R4	This LCD was converted to the new "no-codes" format. There has been no change in coverage with this LCD revision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Revisions Due To Code Removal</li></ul>

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION	REASONS FOR CHANGE
08/01/2019	R3	<p>Consistent with Change Request 10901, all coding information, National coverage provisions, and Associated Information (Documentation Requirements, Utilization Guidelines) have been removed from the LCD and placed in the related Billing and Coding Article, A56617. There has been no change in coverage with this LCD revision.</p> <p>To provide clarity the following sentence was added to Coverage Limitations:</p> <p>Debridement area greater than 10% is limited to those practitioners who are licensed to perform surgery above the ankle, since the amount of skin required is more than that contained on both feet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>
04/01/2016	R2	<p>The LCD was returned for comment to the Jurisdiction 6 and Jurisdiction K regions from 10/29/2015 through 12/12/2015.</p> <p>CPT codes 97597 and 97598 (previously included in the Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Services LCD, L33631) were added to the LCD. Indications and Documentation Requirements for these services were added to the LCD.</p> <p>Limitations were revised to clarify services which are not appropriately billed with the debridement codes covered in this LCD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>
10/01/2015	R1	<p>ICD-10 codes have been removed from the LCD. Medical necessity criteria apply to all services within this LCD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>

## Associated Documents

### Attachments

N/A

### Related Local Coverage Documents

### Articles

[A54858 - \(MCD Archive Site\)](#)

[A56617 - Billing and Coding: Debridement Services](#)

### Related National Coverage Documents

N/A

### Public Versions

UPDATED ON	EFFECTIVE DATES	STATUS
11/01/2019	11/07/2019 - N/A	Currently in Effect (This Version)
Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.		

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## Keywords

N/A