

## Debridement of Wounds

In an effort to aid health information coding professionals, the following tip is provided by the CHIA Coding & Data Quality Committee as an educational resource. For more coding and data quality resources and tips, visit [CaliforniaHIA.org/CDQ](http://CaliforniaHIA.org/CDQ).

Debridement is defined as the process of removing nonliving tissue from pressure ulcers, burns and wounds. Devitalized or contaminated tissue is removed until surrounding healthy tissue is exposed.

In ICD-10-PCS the root operations for debridement are either “excision” or “extraction.” “Excision” is defined as cutting out or off, without replacement, a portion of a body part. “Extraction” is defined as pulling or stripping out or off all or a portion of a body part by the use of force.

Excision is coded when a portion of a body part is cut out or off using a sharp instrument, especially a scalpel in wound debridement. The use of a sharp instrument does not always equal excisional debridement. Scraping or minor removal of loose tissue fragments with scissors does not equate to excisional debridement

Debridement with other techniques such as hydro surgery (Versajet), nonoperative brushing, irrigating, scrubbing or washing are coded using the root operation “extraction.”

Examples:	
Excisional debridement of buttock skin using a scalpel to cut off tissue	<b>PCS: 0HB8XZZ</b> excision of buttock skin, external
Debridement of coccyx down to and including the bone using a scalpel	<b>PCS: 0QBS0ZZ</b> excision of coccyx, open approach
Versajet debridement of skin and subcutaneous tissue of upper right thigh	<b>PCS: 0JDL0ZZ</b> extraction of right upper leg, subcutaneous tissue and fascia, open approach
Pulsatile lavage of sacral decubitus ulcer	<b>PCS: 0HD6XZZ</b> extraction of back skin, external approach

Reference: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2017). ICD-10-PCS Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. Retrieved from [cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2017-Official-ICD-10-PCS-Coding-Guidelines.pdf](http://cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2017-Official-ICD-10-PCS-Coding-Guidelines.pdf)

This tip sheet was developed by the CHIA Coding & Data Quality Committee as an educational resource. This overview is intended as an educational tool only and should not be relied upon as legal or compliance advice. If you have any legal questions about the information contained herein, you should consult your attorney or other professional legal services provider.

California Health Information Association, AHIMA Affiliate, 2017.

## Connect and Share with CHIA



[/CaliforniaHIA](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHIA)



[/CaliforniaHIA](https://twitter.com/CaliforniaHIA)



[/groups/3868035](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3868035)