

Surgical Treatment of Nails

February 02, 2023

Summary of Major Updates:

Many podiatrists have expressed concerns with the Surgical Treatment of Nails policy which establishes the utilization limitations regarding the use of 11730, 11732, and 11750.

As per the policy:

“A medically reasonable and necessary repeat CPT 11730 / 11732 of the same nail within 32 weeks of a previous avulsion will be considered upon redetermination.

and

A medically reasonable and necessary repeat CPT 11750 of the same nail within the patient’s lifetime will be considered upon redetermination.”

The policy provides examples as to why a repeat procedure of the same nail may be medically necessary, and the two examples provided are “ingrown nail of the opposite border or a new significant pathology on the same border recently treated.

Action Taken to Address this Policy Concern:

Please note that APMA has sent letters to and met with CMS, Novitas, and First Coast to contest this policy. They have requested that this policy be eliminated and suggested the possible solution of allowing the use of modifiers to indicate the medical necessity of these procedures believed to be “repeat” by CMS, rather than the only current option of establishing medical necessity on redetermination.

In the interim it is highly recommended that you document the medical necessity of “repeat” avulsions or excisions when performed. If they are denied, you should proceed with submitting redetermination requests as delineated in the CMS policy.

For change to take place and voices to be heard, these redetermination requests must be submitted so that organizations contesting this policy and CMS have something to reference to when tracking.

References: APMA and CMS