Negative Pressure Therapy Services (97605-97608)

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Effective January 2015, there will be revisions to the negative pressure therapy codes in the Active Wound Management subsection of the CPT ® code set. The two existing codes were revised and two new codes were added that will differentiate negative pressure therapy services provided using durable medical equipment from negative pressure therapy services provided using disposable, non-durable equipment. This article discusses the appropriate reporting of these services.

Following are the new implantable defibrillator system codes.

▲**97605**
Negative pressure wound therapy (eg, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing durable medical equipment (DME), including topical application(s), wound assessment, and instruction(s) for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area less than or equal to 50 square centimeters

▲**97606**
total wound(s) surface area greater than 50 square centimeters

●**97607**
Negative pressure wound therapy, (eg, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing disposable, non-durable medical equipment including provision of exudate management collection system, topical application(s), wound assessment, and instructions for ongoing care, per session; total wounds(s) surface area less than or equal to 50 square centimeters

●**97608**
total wounds(s) surface area greater than 50 square centimeters

Negative pressure wound care therapy procedures are used to remove devitalized and/or necrotic tissue to promote healing. Negative wound pressure therapy is characterized by the use of a vacuum assisted drainage collection device. During therapy, the negative pressure created by the vacuum cleanses the wound, stimulates the wound bed, reduces localized edema, and improves the local oxygen supply. This service places mechanical stress on the tissue and increases the rate of cellular proliferation, granular tissue formation, and new vessel growth. Negative pressure wound therapy requires direct (one-on-one) contact with the patient.

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Codify by AAPC

Codes 97605 and 97606 are used to report negative wound pressure therapy services utilizing devices that are typically based in a facility or office and referred to as durable medical equipment (DME) because of their reusable nature. These devices are usually electronically powered. Code 97605 is used to report wounds treated for 50 square centimeters or less of total surface area. Code 97606 is used to report treated wounds that have a total surface area greater than 50 square centimeters.

Codes 97607 and 97608 are used to report negative pressure wound therapy that is provided using disposable devices such as mechanically powered devices. Unlike electronically powered devices, mechanically powered devices are not considered DME because of their disposable nature.

It is important to note that codes 97607 and 97608 are not reported in addition to codes 97605 and 97606. In addition, dressings are not reported separately because they are included as part of the services performed during negative wound pressure therapy.

The following clinical examples provide descriptions of negative wound pressure therapy services.

Change of Pulse Generator (Battery)

A male patient presents with a stage III pressure ulcer of the sacrum that measures 8.5 × 5.0 × 3.2 cm. The base of the wound is clean and red but with significant serous drainage. Negative pressure wound therapy is applied using an electrically powered vacuum assisted closure device.

Description of Procedure (97605)

Thoroughly clean the wound and periwound area. Ensure adequate hemostasis has been achieved. Prior to foam placement, protect tendons, ligaments, blood vessels, nerves, and organs, when present. Apply skin protectant to periwound area. Assess wound dimensions and pathology, including the presence of undermining or tunnels. Cut dressing to dimensions that will allow the foam to be placed gently into the wound without overlapping intact skin. Gently place foam into wound cavity, ensuring contact with all wound surfaces, ensuring foam-to-foam contact between adjacent pieces of foam to even the distribution of negative pressure. Trim and place a drape to cover the foam dressing with an additional 3-cm to 5-cm border of intact periwound tissue. Place the adhesive face down over foam, and apply drape to cover foam and intact skin. Identify tube location to allow for optimal flow, avoiding placement over bony prominences or within creases in the tissue. Insert tubing into opened pad site, and connect to the negative pressure therapy pump. Secure excess tubing to prevent interference with patient mobility. Set pump parameters and activate. Inspect system for leaks and proper function.

Clinical Example (97606)

A female patient who underwent major abdominal surgery. The incision showed signs suspicious of infection on post-operative day two and was opened creating a wound that measured 25.0 × 3.0 × 3.0 cm. On postoperative day four, negative pressure wound therapy using an electrically powered vacuum assisted closure device is applied.

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Description of Procedure (97606)

Thoroughly clean the wound and periwound area. Ensure adequate hemostasis has been achieved. Prior to foam placement, protect tendons, ligaments, blood vessels, nerves, and organs, when present. Apply skin protectant to periwound area. Assess wound dimensions and pathology, including the presence of undermining or tunnels. Cut dressing to dimensions that will allow the foam to be placed gently into the wound without overlapping intact skin. Gently place foam into wound cavity, ensuring contact with all wound surfaces, ensuring foam-to-foam contact between adjacent pieces of foam to even the distribution of negative pressure. Trim and place a drape to cover the foam dressing with an additional 3 cm to 5 cm border of intact periwound tissue. Place the adhesive face down over foam, and apply drape to cover foam and intact skin. Identify tube location to allow for optimal flow, avoiding placement over bony prominences or within creases in the tissue. Insert tubing into opened pad site, and connect to the negative pressure therapy pump. Secure excess tubing to prevent interference with patient mobility. Set pump parameters and activate. Inspect system for leaks and proper function.

Clinical Example (97607)

A male patient presents with a diabetic foot ulcer of the heel that measures 2.0 × 1.8 × 0.8 cm. The base of the wound is clean and red and has minimal necrotic tissue. Negative pressure wound therapy using a disposable mechanical wound care system is applied.

Description of Procedure (97607)

Thoroughly clean the wound and periwound area. Ensure adequate hemostasis has been achieved. Prior to foam placement, protect tendons, ligaments, blood vessels, nerves, and organs, when present. Apply skin protectant to periwound area. Assess wound dimensions and pathology, including the presence of undermining or tunnels. Cut dressing to dimensions that will allow the foam to be placed gently into the wound without overlapping intact skin. Place a drape to cover the foam dressing. Place the adhesive face down over foam, and apply drape to cover foam and intact skin, avoiding placement over bony prominences or within creases in the tissue. Place pump strap and pump, and connect to the dressing tube. Secure excess tubing to prevent interference with patient mobility. Pull pump activation tab to begin negative pressure therapy, and inspect system for leaks and proper function.

Clinical Example (97608)

A female patient presents with a venous ulcer of the right anterior leg that measures 10.2 × 6.8 × 1.2 cm. The base of the wound is clean and red and has minimal necrotic tissue. Negative pressure wound therapy using a disposable mechanical wound care system is applied.

Description of Procedure (97608)

Thoroughly clean the wound and periwound area. Ensure adequate hemostasis has been achieved. Prior to foam placement, protect tendons, ligaments, blood vessels, nerves, and organs, when present. Apply skin protectant to periwound area. Assess wound dimensions and pathology, including the presence of undermining or tunnels. Cut dressing to dimensions that will allow the foam to be placed gently into the wound without overlapping intact skin. Place a drape to cover the foam dressing. Place the adhesive face down over

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foam, and apply drape to cover foam and intact skin, avoiding placement over bony prominences or within creases in the tissue. Place pump strap and pump, and connect to the dressing tube. Secure excess tubing to prevent interference with patient mobility. Pull pump activation tab to begin negative pressure therapy, and inspect system for leaks and proper function.

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