

FAQ - Surgery: Respiratory System

CPT® Assistant.

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Question: What is the appropriate code to report for shaving/reduction of a patient's thyroid notch or Adam's apple (chondrolaryngoplasty)?

Answer: Currently, there is no specific CPT code to report for shaving/reduction/partial removal of a patient's thyroid notch or Adam's apple (chondrolaryngoplasty). Although the procedure is commonly referred to as a 'tracheal shave' it is performed on the thyroid cartilage notch, a laryngeal structure. The procedure is **not** performed on the trachea. The laryngoplasty family of codes (31580-31592, including 31551-31554) was revised in 2017 and none of these describes this service. Code 31599, Unlisted procedure, larynx would be the appropriate code to report. When reporting an unlisted code to describe a procedure or service, it will be necessary to submit supporting documentation (eg, procedure report) along with the claim to provide an adequate description of the nature, extent, and need for the procedure; and the time, effort, and equipment necessary to provide the service.