Dermatology

Policy
Harvard Pilgrim reimburses contracted providers for the provision of dermatology services.

Policy Definition
Dermatology includes the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders and disease.

Prerequisite(s)
Applicable Harvard Pilgrim referral, notification and authorization policies and procedures apply. Refer to Referral, Notification and Authorization for more information.

HMO/POS/PPO
Referral required for specialist services for HMO and in-network POS members.

Open Access HMO and POS
For Open Access HMO and Open Access POS products, no referral is required to see a contracted specialist.

Harvard Pilgrim Reimburses¹

HMO/POS/PPO

Lesion Excisions
- When performed for other than cosmetic indications.
- Intermediate and complex layer closures and repairs when performed with a benign or malignant lesion excision. Lesion excision reimbursement is inclusive of any anesthesia administered by the surgeon.

Wound Repair and Closures
- Intermediate repairs when the wound requires a layer closure of one or more of the deeper layers of the subcutaneous tissue and superficial fascia in addition to the epidermal and dermal closure.
- Intermediate repair for heavily contaminated wounds requiring extensive cleaning.
- Complex repairs when the wound requires more than layered closure, scar revision, debridement, extensive undermining, stents or retention sutures.
- When multiple wounds are repaired, reimbursement is based on the sum of the lengths of those wounds in the same classification and anatomic site that are grouped together in the CPT descriptor.

Photodynamic Therapy
- Photodynamic therapy by external application of light to destroy pre-malignant and/or malignant lesions of the skin and mucosa by activation of photosensitive drugs.
- Actinotherapy, photochemotherapy and laser treatment for inflammatory skin diseases.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery
- Mohs micrographic surgery to remove complex or ill-defined skin cancer.
- The removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimen, mapping, color coding of specimen, microscopic exam of the specimen, and complete histopathological preparation, including the first routine stain.
- Each stage of Mohs, up to five specimens and each additional specimen, after the first five performed at any stage, at 100% of the allowable for each CPT code submitted.
- Biopsy at the time of Mohs, if performed on a different site than the Mohs procedure.
Skin Replacement Surgery and Skin Substitutes

- The purchase of FDA-approved skin substitutes and replacements for use by one patient only, to either the contracted provider or contracted supplier. A supplier should only bill Harvard Pilgrim directly for the provision of the product for the physician.
- Initial site preparation in addition to the application of the product.

Harvard Pilgrim Does Not Reimburse

**HMO/POS/PPO**

- Abrasion, dermabrasion, salabrasion
- Chemical exfoliation for acne and chemical peel
- Frozen section pathology services associated with Mohs surgery
- Miscellaneous supplies, miscellaneous surgical supplies or surgical trays
- A simple closure or repair when performed with a benign or malignant lesion excision
- Anesthesia when provided by the surgeon or dermatologist
- Closure or repair using adhesive strips as the sole method of repair
- Repairs associated with surgical closure procedures
- E&M services on the same day as a surgical procedure unless it is a significant and separately identifiable service, or it is above and beyond the usual preoperative and postoperative care associated with the procedure
- Photochemotherapy; PUVA when billed without an appropriate diagnosis (for dates of service on or after April 1, 2022)
- Skin tag removal by any method
- Tattooing for the diagnosis of vitiligo
- Non–FDA-approved skin-substitute products

Member Cost-Sharing

Services subject to applicable member out-of-pocket cost (e.g.,copayment, coinsurance, deductible).

Provider Billing Guidelines and Documentation

**Coding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11200</td>
<td>Removal of skin tags, multiple fibrocutaneous tags, any area; up to and including 15 lesions</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11201</td>
<td>Removal of skin tags, each additional 10 lesions (CPT 11201 must be billed in conjunction with CPT code 11200)</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11920 - 11922</td>
<td>Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects, including micropigmentation</td>
<td>Not reimbursed when billed with the following diagnosis codes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12001–12018; 12031–12057; 13100–13153</td>
<td>Repair—simple; Repair—intermediate; Layer closure; Repair—complex</td>
<td>When billing repair of multiple wounds, add together the lengths of those in the same classification (simple, intermediate or complex) and from all anatomic sites that are grouped together into the same code descriptor. Report the total length. Lengths of repairs from different classifications or different anatomical sites should not be added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15780–15782</td>
<td>Dermabrasion; total face; segmental, face; regional, other than face</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15783</td>
<td>Dermabrasion; superficial, any site (e.g., tattoo removal)</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15786-15787</td>
<td>Abrasion</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15788-15793</td>
<td>Chemical peel</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17360</td>
<td>Chemical exfoliation for acne</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99070</td>
<td>Materials charge</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4649, A4550</td>
<td>Miscellaneous supplies (including surgical supplies) and surgical trays</td>
<td>Not reimbursed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Information**

A physician bill for skin substitutes should not be submitted if the supplier is billing Harvard Pilgrim directly for the provision of the product.

**Related Policies**

**Payment Policies**

- Anesthesia
- Bilateral Services and CPT Modifier 50
- Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Evaluation and Management
- Non-Covered Services
- Surgery

**Clinical Policies**

- Mohs Micrographic Surgery
01/01/18 updated Open Access Product referral information under Prerequisites
07/01/18 annual review; administrative edits
08/01/19 annual review; no changes
08/03/20 annual review; updated coding grid; added Non-Covered Services payment policy to Related Policies
07/01/21 annual review; added Mohs Micrographic Surgery Medical Policy to Related Policies
02/01/22 added Photochemotherapy is only reimbursed when billed with an appropriate diagnosis as of dates of service on or after 4/1/2022
07/01/22 annual review; added info regarding Mohs

1This policy applies to the products of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and its affiliates—Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of Connecticut, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of New England, and HPHC Insurance Company—for services performed by contracted providers. Payment is based on member benefits and eligibility, medical necessity review, where applicable, and provider contractual agreement. Payment for covered services rendered by contracted providers will be reimbursed at the lesser of charges or the contracted rate. (Does not apply to inpatient per diem, DRG, or case rates.) HPHC reserves the right to amend a payment policy at its discretion. CPT and HCPCS codes are updated annually. Always use the most recent CPT and HCPCS coding guidelines.

2The table may not include all provider claim codes related to dermatology.