

Checklist: Surgical services: Nail cutting/paring and debridement

This checklist is intended to provide Healthcare providers with a reference for use when responding to medical documentation requests for nail cutting/paring and debridement services. It is not intended to replace the published guidelines. Healthcare Providers retain responsibility to submit complete and accurate documentation.

Check Documentation requirements

Documentation is for the correct beneficiary.

Documentation is for the correct date of service.

Documentation contains a valid and legible signature.

Documentation that includes evidence of a qualifying medical condition/disease(s) to support Medicare coverage requirements for routine foot care exclusion.

Documentation demonstrates the medical necessity of each service considering the patient's usual activities including being actively seen by a primary care provider.

Documentation includes evidence of a thorough physical examination to support the condition(s) being treated.

Documentation that includes evidence to support the reporting of one of the following applicable Q modifiers, if applicable:

Q7 – 1 Class A finding

Q8 – 2 Class B findings

Q9 – 1 Class B and 2 Class C findings

Documentation for nail debridement should include:

Clinical evidence of mycosis

Clinical evidence of ambulation limitations due to discomfort

Clinical evidence of secondary soft tissue infection

Previous unsatisfactory conservative treatment

Documentation supporting an order or request by the patient/patient's family for foot-care services provided in a nursing facility, if applicable.

Documentation that includes a procedure note with the following information, if applicable:

Thorough/detailed description of the procedure being performed (beyond simple statements) and instruments used during the procedure.

Location of each lesion treated.

Identification (by number or name) and description of all nails treated.

Type of anesthesia utilized.

If applicable and required, submitted documentation should include a beneficiary waiver of liability.

Disclaimer

This material is proprietary information of First Coast Service Options, Inc. This material may not be duplicated, in whole or in part, for profit-making purposes. First Coast Service Options and its staff make no representation, warranty or guarantee this compilation of Medicare information is not error-free, nor that use of this information will prevent differences of opinion or disputes with Medicare.