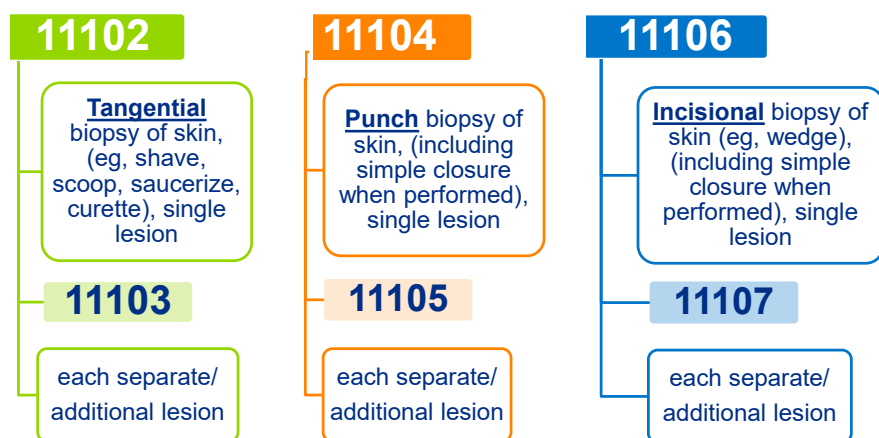


Skin Biopsy Codes - Quick Tips

For dates of service beginning January 1, 2019, six new skin biopsy codes will replace the legacy skin biopsy codes, 11100 and 11101.

*As with soft tissue and site-specific biopsies, skin biopsy codes are reported to indicate that a procedure to obtain tissue was solely for diagnostic histopathologic examination.



KEY POINTS:

- Codes are defined based on technique used
- 3 primary codes
- 3 add-on codes
- Only 1 primary code is reported per encounter.
- Each additional skin biopsy is reported with the appropriate add-on code.

TECHNIQUE DEFINED:

Tangential technique (eg, shave, scoop, saucerize, curette):

- Sharp blade (scalpel, flexible blade, curette) is used for obtaining tissue sample
- Includes epidermal tissue or epidermis with or without underlying dermis

Punch technique:

- Requires a punch tool
- Full-thickness cylindrical tissue sample: through the dermis, into subdermal space
- Includes simple closure
- Undermining, excision of standing cones (Burow's triangles) is included

Incisional technique:

- Must use a sharp blade, not a punch tool
- Full-thickness tissue sample: through the dermis, into subcutaneous space
- May include subcutaneous fat along with skin
- Includes simple closure

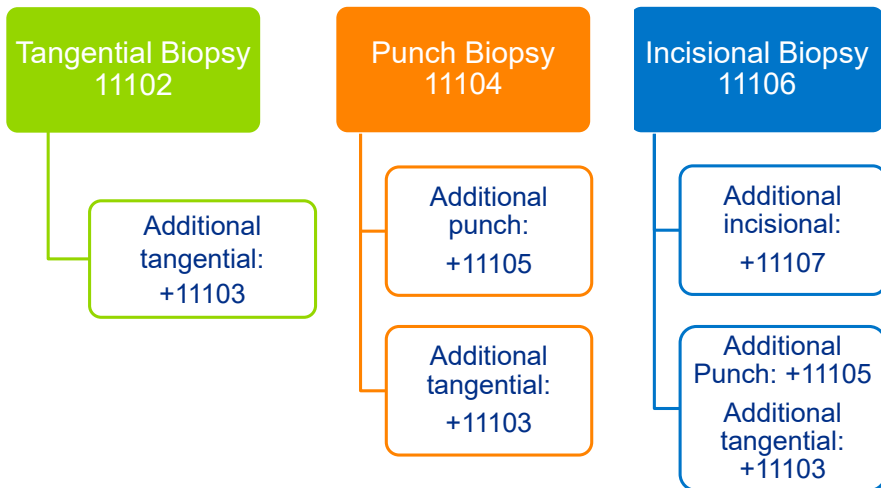
Note: Stratum corneum sampling by any method (scraping, tape stripping) is not a biopsy

For more information, contact the Academy's Practice Management Center:

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Sequencing multiple skin biopsies is based on coding hierarchies:



KEY POINTS:

- When multiple skin biopsies are done, only one primary skin biopsy code is reported per encounter.
- Report additional skin biopsies with the appropriate add-on code based on technique used.
- Code sequencing is based on code hierarchy:
 - Incisional biopsy – primary to punch and tangential biopsy
 - Punch biopsy – primary to tangential biopsy
 - Tangential biopsy
- Add-on skin biopsy codes (+11103, +11105, +11107) are only reported in addition to a primary skin biopsy code (11102, 11104, 11106).

See Coding Examples below.

TIPS:

- The intent of a biopsy is to extract a tissue sample for diagnostic histopathologic examination.
- The site agnostic skin biopsy codes (11102 – 11107) do not replace site specific skin biopsy codes (eg., 11755, 40490, 69100, etc.).
- These skin biopsy codes can be reported in addition to site specific biopsy codes (i.e., 11755, 40490, 69100, etc.)

When multiple skin biopsies are performed):

- Report the primary skin biopsy code based on the technique used (11102, 11104, or 11106).
- Report any additional skin biopsy codes using the correct add-on code, based on technique used (+11103, +11105, +11107)

Multiple Technique Coding Examples

When more than one biopsy is performed using different techniques:

- List the highest value base (primary) code first
- Additional biopsies are reported using the add-on code(s) listed in order of highest to lowest value (see example below)

Coding Examples

One incisional, one punch, two tangential	Two punch, one tangential	One incisional, two tangential	One incisional, one site specific, one tangential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11106 (incisional) • +11105 (punch) • +11103x2 (tangential) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11104 (punch) • +11105 (punch) • +11103 (tangential) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11106 (incisional) • +11103 (tangential) • +11103 x2 (tangential) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11106 (incisional) • 11103 (tangential) • 69100 – 59 (eyelid biopsy)

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