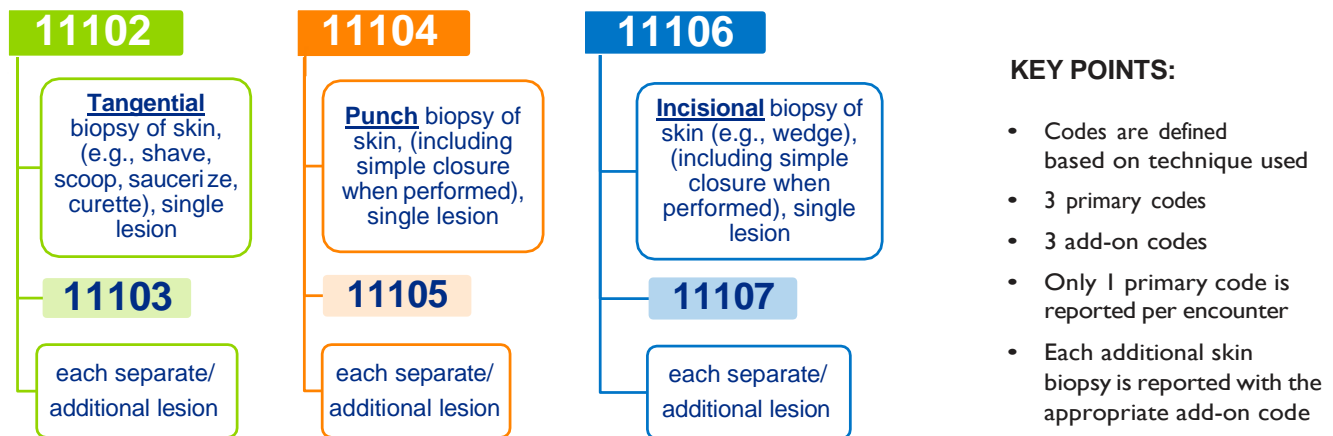


*Skin biopsy codes are reported to indicate that the intent for the procedure performed was solely to obtain a tissue sample for histopathologic examination.*



**TECHNIQUE DEFINED:**

**Tangential technique (e.g., 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:**

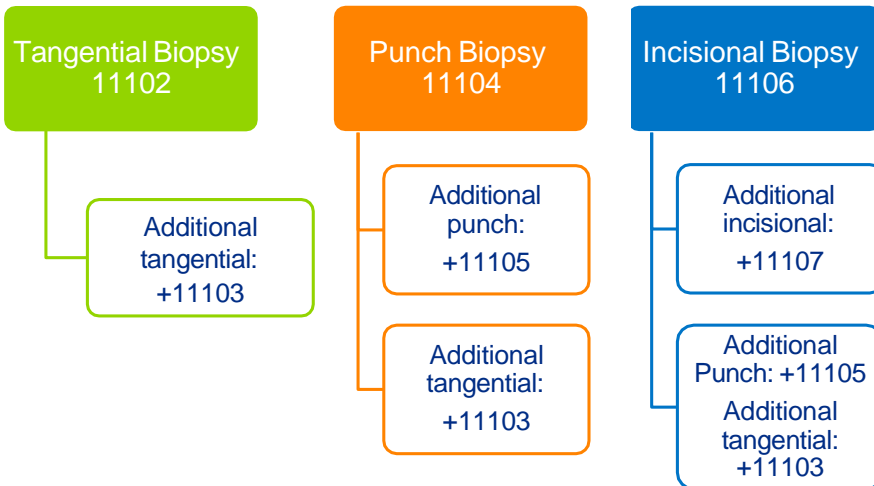
- Requires a punch tool
- Full-thickness cylindrical tissue sample: through the dermis, into subdermal space
- Includes simple closure
- Undermining, excision of standing cones (Burow's triangles) is included

**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

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 (e.g., 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)

### 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"> <li>• 11106 (incisional)</li> <li>• +11105 (punch)</li> <li>• +11103 x2 (tangential)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11104 (punch)</li> <li>• +11105 (punch)</li> <li>• +11103 (tangential)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11106 (incisional)</li> <li>• +11103 (tangential)</li> <li>• +11103 x2 (tangential)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11106 (incisional)</li> <li>• 11103 (tangential)</li> <li>• 69100 – 59 (eyelid biopsy)</li> </ul>