

**POST-OPERATIVE DEBRIDEMENT FOLLOWING FESS/SMR**

Policy # 50

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Review Date:

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**Disclaimer:**

1. Policies are subject to change without notice.
2. Policies outline coverage determinations for Select Health Commercial, Select Health Advantage (Medicare/CMS), and Select Health Community Care (Medicaid/CHIP) plans. Refer to the "Policy" section for more information.

**Description**

Following a functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) or submucous resection (SMR), it is often necessary to perform a limited removal/debridement of secretions, crusts, and/or debris from nasal and/or sinus cavities. This limited procedure usually involves transnasal endoscopy for visualization, suction, and/or irrigation, along with straight forceps or other instrumentation. This minor procedure is often performed in an office setting and can be performed with or without local anesthesia.

Currently, there is no specific CPT code to describe this limited service, however, there is a Level II HCPCS code that specifically addresses post-operative debridement following a FESS procedure (i.e., *S2342 Nasal endoscopy for post-operative debridement following functional endoscopic sinus surgery, nasal and/or sinus cavity(s), unilateral or bilateral*).

It should be noted that Level II HCPCS codes are considered part of the standardized coding system for billing Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance companies for products, supplies, and services not found in CPT.

**COMMERCIAL PLAN POLICY AND CHIP (CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM)**

FESS/SMR procedures include, but are not limited to, the treatment of sinusitis, polyposis, repair of septal or other bony deformities, or sinus tumors. The CPT codes usually associated with FESS/SMR are: 31240, 31241, 31253, 31254, 31255, 31256, 31257, 31259, 31267, 31276, 31287, 31288, 31290, 31291, 31292, 31293, 31294, 31295, 31296, 31297, and 31298.

Diagnostic endoscopy of the sinus region following a FESS or SMR is included in the follow-up service, unless documentation can verify this is unrelated to the FESS or SMR; or is a new issue.

**Select Health has determined HCPCS code S2342 should be used when submitting a claim for endoscopic debridement following FESS procedures, as it precisely describes the services provided.**

Although the exact number of postoperative visits for debridement depends on the surgeon's judgment, most patients require four or fewer.

Codes 31231 or 31237 will be denied if billed within 90 days after a FESS procedure. The provider is required to bill code S2342.

## SELECT HEALTH ADVANTAGE (MEDICARE/CMS)

Select Health Advantage plans do not cover S2342, so the 31237 will be reimbursed on those plans.

## SELECT HEALTH COMMUNITY CARE (MEDICAID)

Select Health Community Care plans do not cover S2342, so the 31237 will be reimbursed on those plans.

### Applicable Codes

Codes	Descriptions
S2342	Nasal Endoscopy for Post-Operative Debridement following Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery, Nasal and/or sinus cavity(s) Unilateral or bilateral)
31231	Nasal endoscopy, diagnostic, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)
31237	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with biopsy, polypectomy or debridement (separate procedure)

### Sources

1. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), (2014) – American Medical Association
2. ICD-9-CM Coding Guidelines. (2013, January 1). Retrieved July 8, 2014, from [https://www.encoderpro.com/epro/physicianDoc/pdf/i9v1/i9\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.encoderpro.com/epro/physicianDoc/pdf/i9v1/i9_guidelines.pdf)
3. HCPCS Level II, 2014 Expert – Ingenix (2014)
4. HCPCS – General Information, Overview – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) July 2, 2014, Retrieved September 8, 2014. From <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedHCPCSGeninfo/>
5. *5 Tips for FESS Coding*, January 1, 2012, Coding and Reimbursement, Rodriguez, Denis – ASC Review Retrieved September 8, 2014. From <http://www.beckersasc.com/news-analysis-asc/coding-billing-reimbursement-issues/5-tips-for-fess-coding.html>
6. *Debridement of the Sinus Cavity after FESS* – American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, July 31, 2014, Retrieved September 8, 2014. From <http://www.entnet.org/Practice/policySinusDebridement.cfm>
7. *Surgery Respiratory System* – CPT Assistant December 2001. p.6.
8. *Surgery Respiratory System* – CPT® Assistant, December 2011, p.13.

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The codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this policy are included for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

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