

## POST-OPERATIVE DEBRIDEMENT FOLLOWING FESS/SMR

Policy # 50

Implementation Date: 12/1/09

Revision Dates: 2/1/10, 10/1/13, 9/11/14, 5/30/17, 7/26/18, 11/18/21, 4/6/23

### Disclaimer:

1. Policies are subject to change without notice.
2. Policies outline coverage determinations for SelectHealth Commercial, SelectHealth Advantage (Medicare), and SelectHealth Community Care (Medicaid) 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

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.

**SelectHealth 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.

## SelectHealth Advantage (Medicare/CMS)

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

## SelectHealth Community Care (Medicaid)

SelectHealth 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

### Disclaimer

This document is for informational purposes only and should not be relied on in the diagnosis and care of individual patients. Medical and Coding/Reimbursement policies do not constitute medical advice, plan preauthorization, certification, an explanation of benefits, or a contract. Members should consult with appropriate healthcare providers to obtain needed medical advice, care, and treatment. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the member's individual benefit plan that is in effect at the time services are rendered.

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.

SelectHealth makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information cited or relied upon in this policy. SelectHealth updates its Coverage Policies regularly, and reserves the right to amend these policies without notice to healthcare providers or SelectHealth members. Claims will be reviewed based on current policy language at time of review.

Members may contact Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member ID Card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Coverage Policy may call SelectHealth Provider Relations at 801-442-3692.

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