Vulva, Perineum, Introitus, and Vagina

Introduction

The Female Genital System subsection is located after the Intersex Surgery subsection. You will find codes for services that range from minor procedures to more critical procedures that must be performed in a hospital. In addition, you will find multiple codes for screening procedures. These are sometimes called “well women” procedures and include screenings such as mammograms, Pap tests, and pelvic exams. Also note that some procedures are bundled. Bundling is when multiple services for a procedure are billed under one code.

Vulva, Perineum, and Introitus Coding

The **vulva** is an inclusive term used to describe the external genitalia of the female body. The **perineum** is the diamond shaped area of skin between the upper area of the vaginal orifice and the anus. It supports the pelvic structures. The term **introitus** refers to an opening or space.
The subheading Vulva, Perineum, and Introitus contains five different categories of codes, depending on the type of procedure that the physician performs. The codes range from 56405 – 56821. The codes are divided by the following procedures:

- **Incision** – These codes are used when there is an incision on the vulva. The vulva includes the mons pubis, labia majora, labia minora, bulb of vestibule, vaginal orifice or vestibulee of the vagina, and the greater and lesser vestibule glands. Coders must know what structures are included in the vulva subsection in order to code correctly.

- **Destruction** – These codes are used for the multiple methods of destroying lesions of the vulva, perineum, or introitus using laser surgery, cryosurgery, electrosurgery, or chemical destruction. Coding depends on the designation of “simple” or “extensive.” This determination should be made and documented by a physician.

- **Excision** – These codes include biopsies and are measured based on extent and size.
  - **Extent**
    - Simple – Includes the skin and the superficial subcutaneous tissue
    - Radical – Includes the skin and the deep subcutaneous tissue
  - **Size**
    - Partial Procedure - Less than 80%
    - Complete - Greater than 80%

Local anesthesia and closure are included in these procedures so don’t unbundle them.

- **Vulvectomy** – This is the surgical removal of a portion of the vulva. The following definitions apply to vulvectomy codes and describe the **extent** and **size** of the vulvar area removed during the procedure:
  - **Extent**
    - Simple Procedure – Removal of skin and superficial subcutaneous tissue
    - Radical Procedure – Removal of skin and deep subcutaneous tissue
  - **Size**
    - Partial Procedure – Removal of less than 80% of the vulvar area
    - Complete Procedure – Removal of more than 80% of the vulvar area

- **Repair** - These codes describe plastic repair of the vulva, perineum, or introitus. Repair categories include:
- Introitus – Surgical repair at the opening of the vagina
- Clitoroplasty – Surgical reduction of an enlarged clitoris
- Perineoplasty – Plastic repair of the perineum

The table below summarizes the procedures, their descriptions, and code ranges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Code Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>This category includes the incision and drainage of an abscess of the vulva, perineal and Bartholin’s glands.</td>
<td>56405 – 56442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction</td>
<td>These codes are used for the multiple methods of destroying lesions of the vulva, perineum, or introitus.</td>
<td>56501 – 56515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excision</td>
<td>These codes refer to removal of a piece of the tissue for biopsies. Biopsy of one lesion is reported by the code 56605, and each additional lesion after the first is reported using the code 56606.</td>
<td>56605 – 56740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulvectomy</td>
<td>These codes refer to the surgical removal of the vulva, which may be classified based on extent and size of the area removed.</td>
<td>56620 – 56640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair</td>
<td>These codes describe plastic repair of the vulva, perineum, or introitus. Other repair procedures include clitoroplasty and perineoplasty.</td>
<td>56800 – 56810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

Procedures performed on the Skene’s gland are not reported using Female Genital System Codes. They are coded using Urinary system codes (53060 – 53270).
Vagina Coding

Vagina subheading codes range from 57000 – 57426. The codes are categorized into the following procedures:

- **Incision** – This is a procedure that includes cutting into the vagina so that the pelvic cavity can be accessed. Examples of incision procedures include:
  - Colpotomy: Cutting into the vagina to gain access to the pelvic cavity
  - Colpocentesis: Insertion of a long needle attached to a syringe through the back wall of the vagina to access the peritoneal cul-de-sac to drain fluid

- **Destruction** – Similar to destruction codes for the vulva, vaginal destruction (obliteration or elimination) codes are divided based on how simple or extensive the physician determines the procedure to be.

- **Excision** – This category contains codes for reporting:
  - Biopsy
  - Vaginectomy (removal of part or all of the vagina)
  - Cyst/lesion removal
  - Colpocleisis (closure of the vaginal canal) codes

These codes are divided according to the extent of the procedure—**partial** or **total**—and the extent to which tissue and adjacent structure(s) are removed.

- **Introduction** – This category includes codes for the following:
  - Vaginal irrigation
  - Insertion of a support device (diaphragm, or cervical cap to prevent pregnancy)
  - Packing of the vagina (for vaginal hemorrhage)

- **Repair** – The procedures codes in this category are extensive. An example of a repair procedure is colporrhaphy, which is a procedure to strengthen the vaginal wall.

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**Notes**

When coding, pay special attention to the *approach*, as well as the *method*, which are found in the operative report.
Manipulation – This includes the following:

- Dilation or stretching of the vagina
- Pelvic examination
- Removal of foreign material

These three procedures are typically too painful to tolerate while alert, and so they are usually performed under general anesthesia.

Notes

If a local anesthesia or no anesthetic is used, you do not use a manipulation code; instead this is included in the Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes.

Endoscopy – Endoscopy of the vagina is called colposcopy. These procedures are often bundled with more major procedures. Only use the colposcopy code when the procedure is done alone or with other procedures unrelated to the colposcopy.
The table below summarizes the categories in the Vagina subsection and their code ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Code Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>57000 – 57023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction</td>
<td>57061 – 57065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excision</td>
<td>57100 – 57135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>57150 – 57180</td>
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<td>Repair</td>
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<td>Endoscopy</td>
<td>57420 – 57426</td>
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