



UEI Coding Alert # 33

August 2, 2006

Coding Epilation for Trichiasis

Epilation for trichiasis CPT 67820 (*Correction of trichiasis; epilation, by forceps only*) is the removal of misdirected eyelashes that grow in toward the eye. Coding for epilation may become difficult if the doctor completes the procedure bilaterally or on multiple eyelids.

Typically, private insurance payers consider billing per eye to be the correct way to handle epilation coding.

However, Trailblazer Health, our local Medicare Contractor, considers 67820 to be a bilateral procedure that should be billed once per session, not per eye, regardless of the number of epilations performed. (See Trailblazer Health Notice #1597 Billing for the correction of Trichiasis).

Remember:

When billing the private insurance carriers, you should use CPT code, 67820, with the correct eye modifier, -RT or -LT.

When billing Medicare you should use CPT code, 67820 once per session, for one or both eyes.