

SUTURES

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Department of Surgery
Edition: April 8, 2010

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UPDATE FROM IMAGING

After careful review the Department of Imaging will no longer be providing back-up CDs for surgery cases. This will take effect as of May 1, 2010. The decision was based on the following:

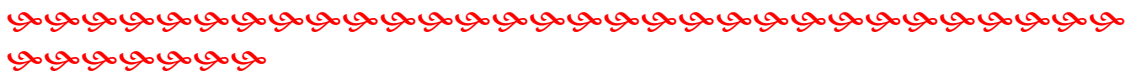
Situation - The department of Imaging continues to provide CDs with relevant exam images for surgery cases as back-up in the event of a PACS system failure.

Background - We started converting the surgery suites to soft-copy viewing via PACS back in February of 2008. At the time, there was understandable anxiety among surgeons regarding the reliability of PACS in the O/R environment and it was agreed that we would create the CDs as back-up for a temporary period of time.

Assessment - The reliability of PACS in the O/R has been demonstrated for over two years during which we have not experienced an unscheduled PACS system interruption during surgery hours.

Recommendation - The production of back-up CDs will be discontinued ...May 1, 2010. Back-up for the O/R will be provided via Lazarus, the PACS downtime server which enables the Imaging department to function during any PACS service interruptions.

Jan Decker, RN
OR Service Line Director



DOCUMENTATION AND CODING TIPS

The coding rules changed in 2008 for debridements. These concepts apply to both in- and out-patient documentation:

1. Now, with the recent changes, the coding rules dictate all debridements are assumed to be non-excisional unless otherwise indicated, so it is now necessary to state “excisional debridement”
2. One should list the location of the debridement, such as buttock, heel, etc.
3. One should list the instrument used in the procedure note, such as a scalpel, curette, or other similar tool
4. One should indicate the tissue type debrided, such as exudates, clot, skin, epidermis, dermis, nonviable superficial tissue, etc.
5. List to what depth the tissue was debrided, such as to (bleeding or healthy) dermis, subcutaneous fascia, etc.

Now there is no technical coding difference between a therapist, technician, or nurse debriding a wound and a physician debriding the wound unless “excisional debridement” is documented by a physician.



CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

Presentations/Publications

Dr. Robert McKenna gave a presentation on Stage 1 Lung Cancer outside of screening at the 22nd International Conference on Screening for Lung Cancer on March 20th, 2010.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Melodie Metzger PhD., Research Scientist in the Biomechanics Laboratory of the CSMC Spine Center (Dr. Rick Delamarter, PI) was recently elected to the Scientific Review Board for the Spine Arthroplasty Society's Research Committee.



Items for submission to Sutures may be sent to Meg Jenkins at jenkinsml@cshs.org

The next SUTURES will be Tuesday, April 20, 2010.