

Case Study:

Inappropriate Multi-coding

(Breast surgery)

Breast Surgery

Case Study 1

Summary

- 3 TOSP codes were submitted in a MediShield Life claim for excision of right breast cancer with a flap done in a single surgical setting.
- The Panel assessed the case as having inappropriate multi-coding: Wire localisation should not have been coded separately as it should be part of the main procedure for the right breast excision for the same lesion; coding for the latter would suffice.

Case Details

- Patient in the 50s with biopsy proven right breast intermediate to high grade ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).
- A right breast wide excision with sentinel lymph node biopsy and an anterior intercostal arterial perforator flap for volume replacement was performed.
- A MediShield Life claim was submitted with 3 TOSP codes for the surgical episode.

Claim Adjudication Outcome

Summary of TOSP Codes

TOSP Codes Submitted by Doctor				Decision by Panel
S/N	Code	Description	Table	
1	SA707B	Breast, Tumor (Malignant), Wide Excision/ Lumpectomy/ Segmental Mastectomy/ Partial Mastectomy, with Sentinel Node Biopsy/ Axillary Node Sampling	4A	✓ Appropriate
2	SA828S	Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue, Defect, Single stage Local Flap (Complicated/ Large)	5B	✓ Appropriate
3	SA711B	Breast, Various Lesions, Wire Localization, Excision (Multiple)	3B	✗ Inappropriate

The Panel assessed the following component to be inappropriate:

SA711B: The use of SA711B is inappropriate, as the procedure was already encompassed by the primary procedure code (SA707B) and targeted the same lesion.

Key Learning Points

- Doctors should claim under TOSP codes which best describe the procedures performed.
- Doctors should not claim under multiple codes for individual surgical steps which are already part of a surgery described by a single TOSP code.
- Investigations will be conducted in respect of doctors who certify inappropriate claim(s), and enforcement action will be taken in respect of any non-compliances found. Egregious or repeated non-compliances may result in the suspension or revocation of the doctor's MediSave and MediShield Life accreditation.