Conversion of Laparoscopic Procedure to Open

October 18, 2012

Question:

The surgeon in our practice performed a laparoscopic exploratory laparotomy that turned into a laparoscopic omentectomy. Do I bill the unlisted laparoscopy procedure 49329 or Omentectomy 49255 with modifier 52 reduced services?

Answer:

Thanks for questioning whether you should report the appropriate unlisted code or the open omentectomy code with a reduced service modifier (52). The correct answer is the unlisted laparoscopic code, CPT code 49329. Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, abdomen, peritoneum and omentum.