Ligation of Perforators. Which Code Should I Use?

Question:
I notice there are two CPT codes for ligation of perforators. I have always used 37760 but now I see there is also, 37761 also for perforator ligation. What’s the difference?

Answer:
37760, ligation of perforator vein(s) subfascial, radical, is specifically for a Linton procedure, which includes a large linear medial leg incision. 37661, introduced by CPT in 2010, is for ligation of perforator vein(s) subfascial, open, including ultrasound guidance, when performed. This code is also a subfascial procedure but is less extensive than a Linton and is the procedure most commonly performed today. Unless you are doing a true Linton procedure, you should be reporting open ligation of perforators with CPT code 37761.