Removal of Nasal Pack

Question:

The emergency room physician put an anterior nasal pack in a patient and instructed him to see me the next day because I was the ENT physician on call. I saw the patient and removed the pack. I can’t find a CPT code for pack removal – what do I bill?

Answer:

You’re right, there is no CPT code for removal of nasal packing because the packing placement code(s) include necessary removal. Removing the nasal pack is included in your E&M code or in CPT 31231 (Nasal endoscopy, diagnostic, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)) if you happen to also use nasal endoscopy to assess the nasal cavity.