

# Cutaneous Vascular Lesion Removal



Medicaid Medical Coverage Policy

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## Description

Cutaneous vascular lesions arise from abnormal formation, growth, or organization of blood vessels within the skin. These lesions often present as visible birthmarks in children and can vary widely in appearance, size, location and clinical significance. The two broad classifications of these lesions are vascular tumors and vascular malformations.

Vascular tumors, such as infantile hemangiomas, arise from an abnormal proliferation of endothelial cells lining the blood vessels. These lesions typically follow neoplastic behavior, with a rapid growth phase occurring soon after birth during which the lesion expands quickly. This is followed by a gradual involution phase, in which the hemangioma slowly decreases in size and may eventually resolve entirely over time.

Vascular malformations, such as port wine birthmarks, represent structural abnormalities of the blood vessels and do not involve abnormal cellular proliferation. Vascular malformations are usually present at birth and tend to grow proportionately as the child develops.

## Coverage Determination

Humana members may be eligible under the Plan for **cutaneous vascular lesion** (eg, infantile hemangioma, port wine birthmark) **removal** when the following criteria are met:

- Failed previous conservative treatment (eg, intralesional injection of triamcinolone and/or betamethasone, oral beta blocker such as propranolol, topical beta blocker such as timolol, systemic corticosteroid such as prednisolone or prednisone, other local wound care/pharmacotherapy for ulcerated lesions); **OR**
- Conservative treatment is contraindicated due to complex or high-risk lesion;

**AND one** of the following:

- A [functional impairment\\*](#) is present (eg, the lesion is affecting a vital structure [ears, eyes, larynx, mouth, nose] and/or function [breathing, eating, hearing, speaking, swallowing]); **OR**
- Lesion is on the extremities or trunk and is associated with recurrent bleeding or painful nodules; **OR**
- Lesion is ulcerated (regardless of anatomical location).

\*Functional impairment is defined as a direct and measurable reduction in physical performance of an organ or body part.

### Coverage Limitations

Humana members may **NOT** be eligible under the Plan for **cutaneous vascular lesion removal** for any indications other than those listed above.

### Coding Information

Any codes listed on this policy are for informational purposes only. Do not rely on the accuracy and inclusion of specific codes. Inclusion of a code does not guarantee coverage and/or reimbursement for a service or procedure.

CPT® Code(s)	Description	Comments
17106	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); less than 10 sq cm	
17107	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); 10.0 to 50.0 sq cm	
17108	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); over 50.0 sq cm	
CPT® Category III Code(s)	Description	Comments

No code(s) identified		
HCPCS Code(s)	Description	Comments
No code(s) identified		

## References

1. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Clinical Practice Guideline. Clinical practice guideline for the management of infantile hemangiomas. <https://www.aap.org>. Published January 2019.
2. ClinicalKey. Graham ME, Perkins JA, Grimmer JF. Vascular anomalies of the head and neck. In: Flint P, Francis H, Haughey B, Lesperance M, et al. *Cummings Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Elsevier; 2021:3002-3019.e4. <https://clinicalkey.com>.
3. Hayes, Inc. Medical Technology Directory. Pulsed dye laser therapy for cutaneous vascular lesions. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com>. Published December 31, 2012. Updated December 1, 2016.
4. UpToDate, Inc. Infantile hemangiomas: management. <https://uptodate.com>. Updated July 2025.
5. UpToDate, Inc. Laser and light therapy for cutaneous vascular lesions. <https://uptodate.com>. Updated July 2025.

## Change Summary

09/02/2025 New Policy.