



## 2009 ADVANCED WOUND MANAGEMENT REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

To further assist customers considering the clinical and financial value of Unite® Biomatrix, the following information is shared. For additional personal assistance, please call Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare, Inc. at (800) 650-1816.

### REGULATORY APPROVAL

Unite® Biomatrix Wound Dressing has been cleared by the FDA since September 21, 2006 (K061494, K071425) as a collagen wound dressing and is indicated for the local management of moderate to heavy exuding wounds including partial and full-thickness wounds; draining wounds; pressure ulcers; venous ulcers; chronic vascular ulcers; diabetic ulcers; trauma wounds (such as abrasions, lacerations, partial thickness burns and skin tears); as well as surgical wounds (such as donor sites, post-laser surgery, post-Mohs surgery, podiatric wounds and dehisced surgical incisions).

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Unite® Biomatrix is a biocompatible, highly organized, non-reconstituted, collagen matrix derived from equine pericardium. The collagen dressing is decellularized, flexibly crosslinked and passes USP sterility testing. Physicians choose Unite® Biomatrix for its ideal handling characteristics, proven biocompatibility, durability, and safety profile. Unite® Biomatrix is strong and stable, while at the same time, thin and pliable enough to easily conform to the wound site. It is available in pre-fenestrated and non-fenestrated sizes up to 9cm x 9cm and has a convenient 3 year room-temperature shelf life. Clinical results suggest that this collagen dressing resists premature enzymatic degradation and helps maintain the wound bed in the healing phase to allow for healthy granulation tissue and wound closure.

### HEALTHCARE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Surgeons, hospital administrators and their professional coders all agree that coding the professional and technical components of a procedure depends upon details provided in the patient's medical record, including the patient's chief complaint, past medical history and procedure notes. While Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare believes this information to be correct, it is shared for educational and strategic planning purposes only. The actual selection of codes remains the sole responsibility of providers. Since individual insurers have different requirements and coding is subject to change without notice, providers are encouraged to speak with their payers, as needed.

### PHYSICIAN 2009 CPT® CODING CONSIDERATIONS<sup>1</sup>

Coding considerations for the local management of moderate to heavy exuding wounds can be found in several different sections of *CPT 2009*. Physicians are encouraged to review each section, especially the narratives provided by the American Medical Association, to accurately identify the service(s) performed. For example, in the Surgery/Integumentary System of *CPT 2009*, surgeons will find CPT codes for "Excision-Debridement" and "Skin Replacement Surgery and Skin Substitutes", including coding considerations for surgical preparation, acellular dermal replacement, and xenograft. In the Medicine/Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation section of *CPT 2009*, physicians will find CPT codes for "Active Wound Care Management". Per AMA guidelines, active wound care procedures are performed to remove devitalized and/or necrotic tissue and promote healing.

## HCPCS 2009 LEVEL II CODING CONSIDERATIONS<sup>2</sup>

The introduction of new wound care products has precipitated a confusing array of A, C, J and Q HCPCS coding considerations. To overcome this confusion, providers are encouraged to confirm a product's "Indications for Use" and device classification on the FDA website at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). For Unite® Biomatrix Wound Dressing, HCPCS coding considerations for collagen wound care dressings include:

A6021	Collagen dressing, pad size 16 sq. in. or less, each
A6022	Collagen dressing, pad size more than 16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in., each.
A6023	Collagen dressing, pad size more than 48 sq. in., each
A6024	Collagen dressing wound filler, per six in.

Providers are also encouraged to investigate their payers' wound care medical policies. Noteworthy medical policies to review include:

- Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletin: Wound Care, Policy Number 0244
- CIGNA's Wound Healing Coverage Position, #0068
- United Healthcare's Collagen Based Wound Dressing

Review of the payer's perspective on wound care management will help providers appreciate that certain HCPCS codes are covered, while others are not. For example, several C, J and Q-codes are considered investigational because there is inadequate evidence in the peer-reviewed medical literature to support their clinical effectiveness. Products that are considered medically necessary versus those that are considered experimental/investigational are typically specified in the payer's medical policy.

## FACILITY REIMBURSEMENT

Wound care DRG considerations include, but are not limited to:

573	Skin Graft and/or Debridement for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis with MCC
574	Skin Graft and/or Debridement for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis with CC
575	Skin Graft and/or Debridement for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis without CC/MCC
576	Skin Graft and/or Debridement Except for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis with MCC
577	Skin Graft and/or Debridement Except for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis with CC
578	Skin Graft and/or Debridement Except for Skin Ulcer or Cellulitis without CC/MCC

**For additional information about Unite® Biomatrix,  
please speak with your local Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare sales professional.**

1. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Providers are encouraged to personally review a current copy of CPT 2009 when preparing an insurance claim.
2. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS 2009. Medicare's National Level II Codes. Published by the American Medical Association.

Refer to the Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare, Inc. Instructions for Use for the proper use, precautions, warnings, approved indications and labeling of the Unite® Biomatrix. CAUTION: Federal law restricts this product to sale or on the order of a physician. Unite® is a registered trademark of Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare, Inc.

*This document has been prepared for educational purposes only. Since coding, coverage, and reimbursement determinations are subject to frequent changes, providers should check with their payers before submitting claims. Synovis Orthopedic & Woundcare, Inc. assumes no responsibilities or liabilities for the information contained in this document. We respect that the actual selection of codes remains the sole responsibility of providers.*