

Incision and Drainage

Incision and Drainage (I & D) of Abscess

AMA comments, but has not formally published any distinction between *simple* and *complicated* I & D and states the choice is at the physician's discretion, based on the level of difficulty involved in the incision and drainage of an abscess.

Physicians may wish to consider the following in making case by case determination:

- Simple/Single I & D:
 - Physician/provider makes a small incision through the skin overlying an abscess allowing it to drain.
- Complicated I & D:
 - Incision and insertion of a drain or packed with gauze may indicate the treatment of a lesion is not simple and requires more effort, skills and supplies
 - Probed to break up loculations
 - May require follow up care for drain removal and wound care assessment.
 - Infection, size of lesion, need for culturing and complexity of the dressing.
 - Depth of wound requiring US guidance.
- In addition to description of I & D, Best Practice for Physician/Provider should include:
 - "Complicated" or "Complex" in actual procedure note