A skin tag, or acrochordon, is a common, benign condition which consists of a bit of skin that projects from the surrounding skin and may appear attached to the skin. Skin tags may be smooth or irregular, flesh colored or hyper-pigmented, and may either be raised above the surrounding skin or may have a stalk (a peduncle) so that the skin tag hangs from the skin.

Removal of benign skin tags that do not pose a threat to health or function, are not considered medically necessary.

Criteria for Coverage

The removal of skin tags is covered when there is medical documentation that one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The skin tag has one or more of the following characteristics: bleeding, itching, pain; **or**
- The skin tag has physical evidence of inflammation, e.g., purulence, oozing, edema, erythema; **or**
- The skin tag obstructs an orifice; **or**
- The skin tag clinically restricts vision; **or**
- There is clinical uncertainty as to the likely diagnosis, particularly where malignancy is a realistic consideration based on the skin tag appearance; **or**
- A prior biopsy suggests or is indicative of malignancy.

Documentation

The beneficiary's medical records must be legible and contain the relevant history and physical finding conforming to the criteria stated in the "Criteria for Coverage" section above. Documentation must also include the patient's signs and symptoms and skin tag physical findings (i.e., size, location, appearance, number, duration and changes over time). Drawings, diagrams, or photographs may be included if necessary to document medical necessity.

If a specimen is submitted for a pathologic interpretation, the tissue diagnosis report must be included with the medical record.

If a surgical procedure is performed, the operative note must be of significant detail to support the surgical procedure performed.

Refer to Section 7.0 General Policy, in this manual for additional documentation requirements.