

Reimbursement Guide

For clean, non-contaminated surgical wounds, linear closures are classified according to CPT® terminology as follows:

Simple

- A single layer of repair (e.g. sutures, staples, adhesives)

Intermediate: the elements of a simple linear closure **PLUS**

- Limited undermining (less than width of wound)
- A deeper layer of closure (e.g. buried absorbable sutures)

Complex: the elements of an intermediate closure **PLUS AT LEAST ONE OF:**

- Free margin location (e.g. nostril, helical rim of ear, vermilion border of lip)
- Exposed structures (bone, cartilage, neurovascular, etc)
- Retention suture
- Extensive undermining (measured from perpendicular line of closure and greater than the width of the wound)

Both the SUTUREGARD® ISR Retention Suture Device for skin relaxation and the HEMIGARD™ Adhesive Retention Suture Device involve the use of retention sutures and are registered as suture retention devices (21CFR878.4930).

For informational purposes, the following chart highlights the difference in reimbursement* between intermediate and complex linear closure:

	2.5cm	5cm	7.5cm	10cm
Scalp	\$ 107.19	\$ 131.73	\$ 131.73	\$ 243.25
Face (temple, forehead, cheek)	\$ 121.98	\$ 177.56	\$ 123.79	\$ 283.31
Nose	\$ 158.80	\$ 205.35	\$ 151.58	\$ 328.06
Hand or foot	\$ 141.47	\$ 182.25	\$ 182.25	\$ 287.64
Trunk	\$ 92.03	\$ 101.77	\$ 101.77	\$ 202.10
Arm	\$ 107.19	\$ 131.73	\$ 131.73	\$ 243.25
Median	\$ 114.59	\$ 154.65	\$ 131.73	\$ 263.28

Due to the Multiple Surgery Reduction Rule, reimbursement of a linear closure is reduced if it is performed on the same day as a higher RVU procedure (e.g. Mohs surgery) as follows*:

	2.5cm	5cm	7.5cm	10cm
Scalp	\$ 53.59	\$ 65.86	\$ 65.86	\$ 121.62
Face (temple, forehead, cheek)	\$ 60.99	\$ 88.78	\$ 61.89	\$ 141.65
Nose	\$ 79.40	\$ 102.68	\$ 75.79	\$ 164.03
Hand or foot	\$ 70.74	\$ 91.13	\$ 91.13	\$ 143.82
Trunk	\$ 46.01	\$ 50.89	\$ 50.89	\$ 101.05
Arm	\$ 53.59	\$ 65.86	\$ 65.86	\$ 121.62
Median	\$ 57.29	\$ 77.32	\$ 65.86	\$ 131.64

*Calculated as RVU of each procedure multiplied by 2020 Medicare multiplier (\$36.09 per RVU).