

# SERENAGROUP NEWSLETTER

Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

## FACTS ABOUT CELLULAR AND/OR TISSUE-BASED PRODUCTS



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**THOMAS SERENA, MD, CEO**

### **What are cellular and/or tissue-based products?**

A cellular and/or tissue product (CTP) is defined as a product containing or consisting of human or animal cells that is used to encourage tissue and cell growth in a wound bed. The goal is to promote skin coverage and closure in chronic wounds. CTP was designed to replace skin grafting, which is tissue taken from one part of the body and attached to the wound area. Skin grafting can be a serious procedure that is much more invasive and painful, whereas, a CTP comes in a package and is simply attached to the wound bed.

### **What you can expect?**

Your provider may determine that you are a candidate for cellular tissue products if you have a chronic wound that has a clean wound bed with adequate blood flow and the wound

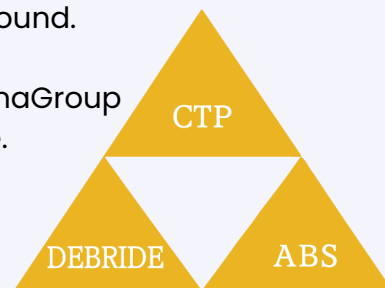
has not had significant improvement with standard wound care. CTP can be a single application or a series. It can be applied in the office or in the operating room, depending on your wound bed. Once a CTP has been applied to your wound, you will need to adhere to your provider's plan for you, which may be to keep the wound dressing intact until your next appointment, as well as keeping the dressing dry, and not bearing weight on the area.

### **Accelerating new tissue growth in a healthy wound bed!**

#### **How CTP works?**

CTP can stimulate the body's healing process to rebuild tissues. CTP have epidermal cells that are embedded in a collagen dressing that works to create and stimulate the outermost layer of skin to grow over the wound.

Learn more at the SerenaGroup Tri-Certification Course.

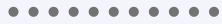


**TRI-C**ERTIFICATION

OBTAIN CERTIFICATION IN THE  
ESSENTIAL WOUND CARE PROCEDURES



## Hyperbaric Technician Role



### ALLY GEORGE



As a hyperbaric technician, in this role, the position should be considered a Resident Hyperbaric Expert. Common statement is *"I'll just wait for the wound care doctor to refer if they think the patient is an appropriate candidate for hyperbaric oxygen therapy."* While SerenaGroup is working to constantly provide more education on this topic to make healthcare providers more knowledgeable about hyperbaric oxygen therapy, it is key to remember advanced wound care modalities are ever-changing. As SerenaGroup continues to add educational programs, advanced modalities, clinical trials through the SerenaGroup Research Foundation, wound care products, etc., the hyperbaric technician can assist the provider(s) by assisting on identifying the hyperbaric candidates. Most providers would rather lean on the experts to notify them on patients who qualify for hyperbaric medicine. This process ensures that the patient is given options on all advanced modalities available to them.

Hyperbaric technicians utilize a patient tracker system to monitor potential hyperbaric oxygen therapy candidates. The hyperbaric technicians are held accountable to communicate with their wound care provider(s) on a regular basis. The patient tracker is updated typically daily to ensure that new patients are investigated for hyperbaric oxygen therapy immediately as time is tissue. Another key element on the patient tracker is tracking the patient's wound

care visits as this allows the hyperbaric technician to notify the wound care physician prior to the patient's appointment to ensure they are updated with a clear picture of all the advanced modalities that are available to the patient through their healing path. Identifying hyperbaric candidates and communicating with the wound care physician will ensure that appropriate patients get referred to hyperbaric medicine as soon as they qualify. Through this process, this will lower amputation rates and give the patient their quality of life back utilizing the advanced modality. The hyperbaric technicians understand that not all patients that are identify will receive hyperbaric medicine treatment; but it is our job to ensure that patient is offered the treatment so they are aware of their choices to ensure healing of their chronic wounds. Examples of the obstacles that hyperbaric technicians observe are claustrophobia, patient refusal, financial concerns, or lack of transportation. The hyperbaric technician works hard to ensure that the patients are offered the therapy even if the patient does not receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The hyperbaric technician is viewed as an ambassador for hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the center while they work with the wound care provider to identify potential patients through their patient tracking program. All new patients that come into the advanced wound care center are searching for the highest quality of wound care utilizing advanced modalities; included hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

**By working together as a team, we ensure we are providing the best care!**



## Modifier 25 Help!

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### Matt Schweyer, CCO



Can I drop an Evaluation & Management (E&M) code and can I amend with modifier 25? Of all modifiers, 25 seems to be that one that provides the most angst and problems. An article in Today's Wound Clinic (4/2020) provided a great summation of evaluation and management/clinic visit codes and addressed its utilization in the Wound Care Centers. Below is a summation of this article.

E&M and Clinic Visit codes should not be reported when a minor procedure was performed during the same encounter unless the physician/QHP also addressed a new or separately identifiable problem and thoroughly documented it. By stating in the medical record that services were greater than normal does not justify an E&M code. If a new or separately identifiable problem was addressed when a minor procedure was performed, the E&M or Clinic Visit code should be appended with modifier 25.

Likewise, CMS OPPSFAQ released in FY 2003 with periodical updates that address appropriateness as it relates to modifier 25. In this document, there is language that has been utilized to support adding the E&M code and amending on the date a procedure was performed. In the FAQ, it mentions three specific times:

1. When the patient's condition requires a significant, separately identifiable E&M service above and beyond what is

customary. The information substantiating the E&M service must be clearly documented in the patient's medical record.

2. That is beyond the usual pre-operative and post-operative care associated with the procedure.

3. When a separate history was taken, a separate physical was performed, and a separate medical decision was made and is documented in the medical record.

Armed with the above information, let's look at a scenario that is seen occasionally in the wound care centers.

A long-standing patient presents to the center. The patient is febrile, has increased pulse rate, his blood sugar is out of range and general malaise at the visit today. In this scenario, the clinician must ask herself, "Is this normal, customary and should I bring it to the providers attention?" The provider sees the patient, obtains the history from the patient, decides the patient has an underlying infection, prescribes antibiotics and documents all of this in the patient's medical record. During the same encounter the provider debrides the ulcer.

The above scenario is a good example of care that is outside of what would customarily be performed during the procedure. This requires a separate history, physical and decision making to determine how to manage the infection not the ulcer being debrided!

Some hospitals have a mandate and/or policy around usage and handling modifiers. However, from a compliance perspective, the language in The NCCI edits & manual, LCD (Local Carrier Decisions) that addresses E&M in the wound care center and the above FAQ.



## 2022 SerenaGroup Educational Courses

40hr Intro to HBO  
August 18-21 | West Palm Beach FL  
August 25-28 | Stafford TX

Tri-Certification  
October 14-15 | Minneapolis MN  
November 18-19 | TBD

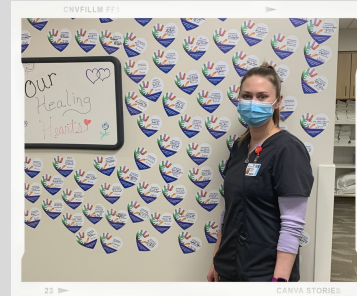
Leaders in Wound Care  
September 16-18 | New Orleans LA

SerenaGroup Leadership Meeting  
October 5-8 | New Orleans LA

**Education is one of many key benefits  
to partnering with SerenaGroup.**

SerenaGroup recognizes that the key to continued success with positive clinical outcomes is education. Education is provided through different platforms to ensure the tools are available to our centers.

## SerenaGroup Blue Star Winner



**Andrea Sweeney**  
Registered Nurse

**"Andrea is an outstanding RN  
and continues to make her  
patient's path towards healing  
possible through her advanced  
wound care experience."**

# SerenaGroup

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