EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT COURSE: The patient presents for evaluation and repair of a chain saw injury to his left thigh. The patient's wound is anesthetized with local infiltration of 0.5% bupivacaine. Following adequate anesthesia, the wound is copiously irrigated to remove debris. I then examined the wound and meticulously removed all remaining traces of debris. The wound is then significantly debrided of ribbons of tissue remaining from the chain saw injury. I performed significant undermining to allow closure across the gaping wound. Hemostasis was obtained by application of high temperature battery-operated cautery. Three subcutaneous sutures were placed with 4-0 Vicryl to achieve closure across the gap and minimize tension across skin sutures. Skin is then re-approximated with 4-0 Ethilon placed in a vertical mattress fashion with simple sutures placed at either end where tissue ribbons taper into the belly of the wound.

Good wound closure was obtained with the above measures. The patient tolerated the procedure well. No complications were noted. His wound was dressed and he was placed into an Ace wrap over his knee as a reminder to minimize flexion of his knee and minimize tension across his wound. The patient was advised of the need for follow up. He is told to have suture removal done in 12 to 14 days. He is advised infection should become apparent within 48 hours and will return to the Emergency Department or follow up with his primary care provider should any concerns for infection develop.

CLINICAL IMPRESSION:

1. A 12 cm left thigh laceration status post complex closure with extensive debridement and undermining and wound remodeling.

What are the CPT® and ICD codes for the above procedure?

CPT® Codes: 13121, 13122

ICD-10-CM Code: S71.122A, W29.3XXA

Rationales:

CPT®: This wound represents a complex laceration repair. As we can see there is more work performed than just a layered closure. The provider documents the need for “significant undermining” to allow for proper closure of this gaping wound. In the CPT Index locate Repair/Skin/Wound/Complex for code range 13100-13160. This wound is 12 cm in length and we would select 13121 Repair, complex, scalp, arms, and/or legs 2.6–7.5 cm and add-on code 13122 for each additional 5 cm.

ICD-10-CM: In the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index locate Laceration/thigh/with foreign body S71.12 In the Tabular List S71.12 requires a 6th character to identify right or left thigh and a 7th character to identify the encounter. Final ICD-10-CM S71.122A Laceration with foreign body, left thigh, initial encounter. Next look in the ICD-10-CM Index to External Causes of Injuries for Contact/with/saw/chain referring you to W29.3-. Check the Tabular List and this code requires seven characters. Report W29.3XXA for the initial encounter.