

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 8.2

SURGERY FOR TONGUE-TIE (ANKYLOGLOSSIA)

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

40806, 40819, 41010, 41115, and 41520

II. DESCRIPTION

Tongue-tie (ankyloglossia) is a condition in which there is a greater than normal fusion of the forepart of the tongue with the floor of the mouth. The fusion may be partial or total. To release the tongue-tie, a surgical procedure is sometimes performed. The procedure may be referred to as a lingual frenectomy, frenulectomy, frenotomy or a frenoplasty.

III. POLICY

Surgery for tongue-tie is not covered except in cases where total or complete ankyloglossia is documented. There is considerable lack of objective data and disagreement regarding the need for surgery in cases of partial tongue-tie. The procedure for other than total tongue-tie is considered unnecessary, and of no medical value.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Total or complete ankyloglossia is rare (2 cases in 10,000). If any provider appears to submit an excessive number of claims for this diagnosis, the claims should be flagged for prepayment medical review.

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