



BIO-THERAPEUTICS EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

36 Urey Court, Irvine, CA 92617 ~ Phone: 949-509-0989 ~ Fax: 949-509-7040 ~ www.BTERFoundation.org

February 15, 2008

American Medical Association
Department of CPT Editorial Research and Development
515 N State St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear CPT Coding Committee:

The BTER Foundation wishes to express our support for the request to assign a designated CPT code for maggot therapy.

Our organization represents a rapidly growing population of clinicians using maggot therapy in the U.S. Today there are over 600 medical and surgical doctors prescribing maggot therapy, and thousands of nurses and physical therapists assisting or performing the procedure. This number is growing at a rate of 10-20% per year. Maggot therapy was performed an estimated 4,000 times last year.

When we requested a CPT code 4 years ago, there was no commercial supplier of medical grade maggots, and the treatment still was not included in many wound care textbooks. The CPT Coding Committee recommended that clinicians document the treatment with the same code used for "selective debridement without anesthesia. Over the past few years we have received many complaints that this code does not adequately reflect the length of time, technical experience or materials used in the procedure.

For these reasons, we believe that it is appropriate and necessary to assign a specific code to this unique medical procedure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ronald A. Sherman, MD, MSc, DTM&H
Director, BTER Foundation

Disclosure: In 2005, when the University of California ceased providing medicinal maggots for the U.S. market, Dr. Sherman co-founded Monarch Labs in order to continue that service.

"The BeTER Foundation"

- supporting patient care, education, and research in biotherapy and symbiotic medicine