

Reimbursement Policy

Policy Number: RP023

Policy Title: Modifier Reference Policy

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Policy Disclaimer

If a conflict arises between a Reimbursement Policy and any Plan document under which a member is entitled to covered services, the Plan document will govern. If a conflict arises between a reimbursement policy and any provider contract pursuant to which a provider participates in and/or provides covered services to eligible member(s) and/or plans, the provider's contract will govern. "Plan documents" include, but are not limited to, Certificates of Health Care Benefits, Benefit Booklets, Summary Plan Descriptions and other coverage documents. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSTX has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable Plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submitting accurate documentation of services performed. Providers are expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid code combinations from Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing Editor, American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, National Drug Codes, Diagnosis Related Group guidelines, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines.

Claims are subject to the code edit protocols for services and procedures billed. Claim submissions are subject to claim review, including but not limited to, any terms of benefit coverage, provider contract language, medical policies and reimbursement policies, as well as coding software logic. Upon request, the provider is urged to submit any additional documentation.

Description

This policy serves as a general reference for appending modifiers to the appropriate procedure codes. This policy is not intended to impact care decisions or medical practice. The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual and The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) defines modifiers that may be appended to CPT and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes to provide additional information about the services rendered. For the purposes of this policy, a modifier would be appended to denote additional information about the service rendered. Modifiers consist of two numeric or alphanumeric characters. All valid CPT and HCPCS modifiers are accepted into the claims processing system used to review claims submitted. Some modifiers have claims logic that may impact claim reimbursement while others may be informational only.

Reimbursement Information

Modifiers may be appended to CPT/HCPCS code(s) if the service or procedure is clinically supported for use of the modifiers. A claim should be submitted with the correct modifier-to-procedure code combination. Modifiers should not be appended to a CPT/HCPCS code(s) if the service or procedure does not support the use of the modifier. Claim submissions may be denied if a claim contains an inappropriate modifier-to-procedure code combination. In this case, providers are required to submit a corrected claim with the correct modifier-to-procedure code combination to be considered for reimbursement. Medical records or other documentation may be requested to help determine appropriate claim reimbursement. The plan reserves the right to request supporting documentation.

If billing with more than one modifier, list the modifier impacting reimbursement first.

The modifiers listed below may appear in some of the material on the applicable state plan's provider website. The following is not an all-inclusive list. Modifiers may be added or removed with appropriate notice. The inclusion of a modifier below does not guarantee reimbursement.

MODIFIER	DESCRIPTION	WHEN TO APPEND A MODIFIER
22	Increased Procedural Services	Append modifier to indicate the work performed for a service or procedure was substantially greater than typically required for that service Documentation should support substantial additional work and the reason for the additional work which may include:

		○ Increased time not described by a more comprehensive code ○ Severity of patient's condition ○ Increased intensity ○ Technical difficulty of procedure not described by a more comprehensive code ○ Physical and mental effort that was required • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 22 to an E/M service. • May be appended for field avoidance. • Submit with supporting documentation.
23	Unusual anesthesia	Append modifier 23 to a procedure code for the basic service if the procedure that typically requires no anesthesia or local anesthesia was performed under general anesthesia due to unusual circumstances. • Report modifier 23 in the second modifier position for monitored anesthesia care (MAC) when pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
24	Unrelated Evaluation and Management (E/M) service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during a postoperative period	Append modifier for unrelated E/M service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during a post-operative period. • Modifier 24 is applied to two code sets, E/M services and general ophthalmological services for eye examinations.
25	Significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day of the procedure or other service	Append modifier to a significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician or other health care professional on the same day of a procedure or other service. • A significant, separately identifiable E/M service is substantiated by documentation that satisfies the relevant criteria for the reported E/M service.
26	Professional component	The professional component is outlined as a physician's service, which may include technician supervision,

		interpretation of the test results and the documented written report. Append modifier 26 when the physician interprets the results and written report but does not perform the test.
TC	Technical Component	Modifier TC is used when only the technical component of a procedure is being billed. Use modifier TC when the physician performs the test but does not do the interpretation. This modifier must be reported in the first modifier field.
33	Preventive services	Append to codes represented for evidence-based services in accordance with a United States Preventive Services Task Force-USPSTF A and B rating in effect and other preventive services identified in preventive services mandates (legislative or regulatory). Modifier 33 is used with CPT/HCPCS codes representing preventive care services. Note, for separately reported services specifically identified as preventive or inherently preventive per the code description, it would be inappropriate to append modifier 33.
47	Anesthesia by surgeon	Append modifier for monitored anesthesia care-MAC in the second modifier position when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position. - Anesthesiologist is not covered with this modifier. - Does not include local anesthesia, only applies to regional or general anesthesia when provided by the surgeon by adding 47 to the basic service. - Is not used for the anesthesia procedure.
50	Bilateral procedure	Append modifier to report bilateral procedures performed during the same service. The use of modifier 50 is applicable only to services and/or procedures performed on identical anatomic sites, aspects, or organs. (See Anatomical Modifier section below for

		additional information related to modifier 50.) • This modifier can be used for diagnostic, radiology, and surgical procedures. • It would be inappropriate to use Modifier 50 when the procedure code descriptor indicates bilateral and would not be used when right (RT) and left (LT) would be applicable to the services. • When using Modifier 50 to indicate a procedure was performed bilaterally, the modifiers LT and RT would not be billed on the same service line. Modifiers LT or RT would be used to identify which one of the paired organs were operated on, when applicable. Billing procedures as two lines of service using the LT and RT modifiers for a bilateral service is not the same as identifying the procedure with Modifier 50. • When billing for a bilateral service, a procedure code with the Bilateral Surgery Flag 1 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule-MPFS indicating that the code is defined as a bilateral service, would be reported on one service line with one unit and Modifier 50 appended to the procedure code. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 50 to designated add-on codes.
51	Multiple procedures	Append modifier to the additional procedure(s) or service(s) when there are multiple procedures or services (not including E/M services) on the same day, during the same session by the same individual. • It would be inappropriate to append modifier 51 on Modifier 51 exempt codes. • It would be inappropriate to report on all lines of service. • It would be inappropriate to append this modifier to designated add-on codes
52	Reduced services	Under certain circumstances a service or procedure is partially reduced or eliminated at the discretion of the physician or other qualified health care professional. • See modifier 73 or 74 for facility. • Append modifier for applicable unusual, reduced

		circumstances. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 52 to time-based codes. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 52 on E/M services.
53	Discontinued procedure	Under certain circumstances, the physician or other qualified healthcare professional may elect to terminate a surgical or diagnostic procedure due to circumstances that may threaten the well-being of the patient. • Append modifier for unusual, discontinued circumstances. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 53 on E/M services. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 53 to report the elective cancellation of a procedure.
54	Surgical care only	Append modifier when a physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs a surgical procedure, and another physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs the preoperative or postoperative management services. • Append modifier for the surgical care only.
55	Postoperative management only	Append modifier when a physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs a surgical procedure, and another physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs the postoperative management services. • Append modifier for postoperative management services only. • Post-operative care should be reported with the same date of service as the surgical care. The date of service is the date the surgical care was rendered.
56	Preoperative management only	Append modifier when a physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs a surgical procedure, and another physician or other qualified healthcare professional performs the preoperative management services. • Append modifier for preoperative management services only.

		Should be reported with the date of service. Preoperative visits are those starting with the day before the surgery for a major procedure, and the day of surgery for a minor procedure after the decision to operate on the eligible member is made.
57	Decision for surgery	Append modifier to indicate an E/M service resulted in initial decision to perform surgery the day before or day of a major surgical procedure. - Append only to an E/M code as described above. - A major surgery has a 90-day post-operative surgery period (90 day global) and a preoperative surgery period that includes the day before surgery or the day of surgery.
58	Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during the postoperative period	Append modifier to indicate a procedure or service during the postoperative period was: (a) planned or anticipated (staged); (b) more extensive than the original procedure; or (c) for therapy following a surgical procedure. - Append modifier when performing a second or related procedure during the postoperative period. - It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 58 to report unrelated procedures during the postoperative period.
59	Distinct procedural service	Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to indicate a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non-evaluation and management (E/M) services performed on the same day. - Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E/M services, which are not normally reported together but are appropriate under the circumstances. - Refer to the current CPT guidelines for additional information. - To bill this modifier, documentation must support a different session, different procedure or surgery, different site or separate organ system, separate incision/excision, separate lesion, or separate injury not ordinarily encountered or performed on the same day by the same individual. - Additional modifiers should be evaluated to

		determine the appropriate usage such as XE, XS, XP and XU.
62	Two surgeons	Append modifier if two surgeons with different specialties are required to perform a specific procedure on the same patient during an operative session, both acting as primary surgeons. If a co-surgeon acts as an assistant in the performance of an additional procedure, other than those reported with modifier 62, during the same surgical session, those services must be reported using different procedure codes with modifier 80 or 82, as appropriate. • It would be appropriate for both surgeons to append modifier 62 on the submitted claim. • The procedure code and diagnosis code for both surgeons would be the same on the submitted claim.
63	Procedure performed on Infants less than 4 kg	Append modifier to procedures performed on neonates and infants up to present body weight of 4 kg that may involve significantly increased complexity and physician or other qualified health care professional work. • Modifier is only applicable to certain codes.
66	Surgical team	Append modifier when more than two surgeons of different specialties are working together under the “surgical team” concept. • Submit with supporting documentation that includes each surgeon’s description of their performance during the procedure. • It would be appropriate for both surgeons to submit this modifier on only those services where they are acting as primary surgeons.
73	Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgery center (ASC) procedure	Append modifier when reporting a discontinued outpatient/hospital ASC procedure prior to the administration of anesthesia due to extenuating circumstances or a threat to the well-being of a member.

	prior to the administration of anesthesia	- It would be inappropriate to append this modifier to report the elective cancellation of a procedure. - For physician reporting of a discontinued procedure, see modifier 53.
74	Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgery center (ASC) procedure after administration of anesthesia	Append modifier when a reporting termination of a surgical or diagnostic outpatient/hospital ASC procedure after the administration of anesthesia or after the procedure was started due to extenuating circumstances or a threat to the well-being of a member. - It would be inappropriate to append this modifier to report the elective cancellation of a procedure. - For physician reporting of a discontinued procedure, see modifier 53.
76	Repeat procedure or service by same physician or other qualified health care professional	- Append modifier only when a procedure or service is repeated on the same date of service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional subsequent to the original procedure or service. It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 76 to an E/M service. - The procedure code would be submitted on the claim form once and then listed again on a separate line with the appropriate modifier appended.
77	Repeat procedure by another physician or other qualified health care professional	Append modifier only when a basic procedure or service is repeated by another physician or other qualified health care professional subsequent to the original procedure or service. Procedure must be the same procedure. It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 77 to an E/M service.
78	Unplanned return to the operating/procedure room by the same physician or other qualified health care professional following initial procedure for a related procedure during the	Append modifier, if necessary, to indicate another procedure was performed during the postoperative period of the initial procedure (unplanned procedure following initial procedure). - Would be used to identify a related procedure requiring a return trip to the operating/procedure room, on the same day as or within the postoperative period of a major or minor surgery. - Append if used to treat the member for complications resulting from the original surgery.

	postoperative period	
79	Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during the postoperative period	Append modifier to indicate the performance of a procedure or service during the postoperative period is unrelated to the original procedure. • Not a repeat procedure on the same day. • Modifier re-sets global period. A new post-operative period will begin when an unrelated procedure is billed.
80	Assistant surgeon	Append modifier to those surgical procedures where an assistant surgeon is warranted. • Physicians acting as assistants cannot bill as co-surgeons. • Physician is assisting at surgery.
81	Minimum assistant surgeon	Append modifier to those surgical procedures where minimum surgical assistant services are warranted. • Physician acting as an assistant that does not participate in the entire procedure; provides minimal assistance to the primary surgeon. • Physicians acting as assistants cannot bill as co-surgeons.
82	Assistant surgeon (When qualified resident surgeon not available)	Append modifiers to those surgical procedures where an assistant surgeon is warranted and a qualified resident surgeon is not available. Physicians acting as assistants cannot bill as co-surgeons.
91	Repeat clinical diagnostic laboratory tests	Append modifier to report repeat clinical diagnostic lab tests or studies performed on the same day on the same member to obtain subsequent test results. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 91 when a test is rerun to confirm the initial results due to an issue with the specimen, equipment or for any other reason when the one-time reportable result was all that was required. • It would be inappropriate to append Modifier 91 when other CPT code(s) describe a series of test

		results.
93	Synchronous telemedicine service rendered via telephone or other real-time interactive audio-only telecommunications system.	Append if the audio only real-time interaction occurs between a physician/other qualified health care professional and a patient who is located at a distant site. • Modifier 93 is applicable to certain codes that can be found in AMA, CPT documents.
95	Synchronous telemedicine service rendered via a real-time interactive audio and video telecommunications system	Append to synchronous telemedicine services rendered via real-time interactive audio and video telecommunications system. • Modifier 95 is applicable to certain codes that can be found in AMA, CPT documents. • Codes that are appropriate for use with modifier 95 are indicated with a star (★) throughout the AMA, CPT codebook.
96	Habilitative services	Append modifier to indicate that the service or procedure provided was a habilitative service.
97	Rehabilitative services	Append modifier to indicate that the service or procedure provided was a rehabilitative service.
AA	Anesthesia services performed personally by the Anesthesiologist	Append modifier when the entire service is performed only by the Anesthesiologist. • Modifier information is billed by an Anesthesiologist (MD/DO).
AD	Medical supervision by a physician: more than four concurrent anesthesia procedures	Append modifier when service was supervised by an Anesthesiologist. • Modifier information is billed by an Anesthesiologist (MD/DO).

AS	Physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist services for assistant at surgery	Append modifier when non-physician practitioners (PA, APN, CRNFA or LSA) are assisting surgeons as a surgical assistant. The assistant surgeon provides more than ancillary services. - Append the modifier when the supervising physician is billing on behalf of a non-physician practitioner including that non-physician practitioner's National Provider Identification/NPI number. - Append modifier to PA, APN, CRNFA or LSA claim submissions when billing their own NPI.
CO	Outpatient occupational therapy services furnished in whole or in part by an occupational therapy assistant	Append modifier to denote additional services were rendered by an occupational therapy assistant.
CQ	Outpatient physical therapy services furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapist assistant	Append modifier to denote services were rendered by a physical therapist assistant.
ER	Items and services furnished by a provider-based, off campus emergency department	Append modifier when items or services are furnished by a provider-based off-campus emergency department. It would be appropriate to append Modifier ER with every claim line for outpatient hospital services furnished in an off-campus provider-based emergency department. Provider-based off-campus emergency departments that meet the definition of a "dedicated emergency department" defined in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 489.24 under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) regulations are required to append modifier ER.

FB	Item provided without cost to provider, supplier or practitioner, or full credit received for replaced device (e.g., but not limited to, covered under warranty, replaced due to defect, free samples)	Append modifier when the device was furnished with zero cost to the hospital.
FC	Partial credit received for replaced device	Append modifier when partial credit is received for a replaced device. Facilities must append modifier when the credit is less than 100%, but greater than or equal to 50%.
FS	Split (or shared) evaluation and management visit	Append modifier on claims to identify a split or shared visit. Documentation must identify the two providers who performed the visit and include a date and signature by the provider who provided the substantive portion.
FT	Unrelated evaluation and management visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another E/M visit	Append modifier for an unrelated critical care E/M visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another E/M visit (within the global surgical period but, is unrelated to the procedure, or when one or more additional E/M visits furnished on the same day are unrelated). The members medical records must clearly document critical care rendered was unrelated to the procedure.
FQ	The service was furnished using audio-only communication technology when the patient is unable to use audio and video communications	Append this modifier when a service is rendered using audio-only technology. The technology allows for two-way, real-time communication.

FR	The supervising practitioner was present through two-way, audio/video communication technology	Append this modifier when the provider supervising the service was present through two-way communication technology with both audio and video.
G0	Telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke	Append modifier to report telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of systems of an acute stroke.
G8	Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) for deep complex, complicated, or markedly invasive surgical procedure	Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
G9	Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) for a patient who has a history of severe cardiopulmonary condition	Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
GA	Waiver of liability statement issued as required by payer policy, individual case	Append modifier for Advance Member Notice.
GC	This service has been performed in part by a resident under the direction of a teaching physician	May be appended to any CPT or HCPCS code. Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.

GE	This service has been performed by a resident without the presence of a teaching physician under the primary care exception	Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
GF	Nonphysician (e.g., nurse practitioner (NP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified registered nurse (CRN), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), physician assistant (PA)) services in a critical access hospital	May be appended to any CPT or HCPCS code. Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
GN	Services delivered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care	Append modifier to denote services rendered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care.
GO	Services delivered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care	Append modifier to denote services rendered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care.
GP	Services delivered under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care	Append modifier to denote services rendered under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care.

GQ	Via asynchronous telecommunications system	Append modifier to report use of an asynchronous telecommunications system. It would be appropriate to append Modifier GQ to indicate services that do not take place in real time.
GT	Via interactive audio and video telecommunications system	Append modifier to report interactive audio and video telecommunications system. It would be appropriate to append Modifier GT to indicate interactive telehealth services in real time.
HM	Less than bachelor's degree level	Append modifier for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) behavior health services when the rendering provider has less educational attainment of a bachelor's degree and no Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) certification. Modifier is used to indicate the level of education, training, and certification of the rendering provider when billing CPT code 97153.
HN	Bachelor's degree level	Append modifier for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) behavioral health services when the rendering provider is a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) or a clinician with a bachelor's degree. Modifier is used to indicate the level of education, training, and certification of the rendering provider when billing CPT code 97153. Note, if modifier HN is not appended, reimbursement will default to modifier HM.
HO	Master's degree level	Append modifier for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) behavioral health services when the rendering provider is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D) or a clinician with a master's degree or higher education. Modifier is used to indicate the level of education, training, and certification of the rendering provider when billing CPT code 97153. Note, if modifier HO is not appended, reimbursement will default to modifier HM.

JK	One month supply or less of drug or biological	Append modifier for insulin administered through DME on a one-month supply.
JL	Three-month supply of drug or biological	Append modifier for insulin administered through DME on a three-month supply.
JW	Drug amount discarded/not administered to any patient	Append modifier to report the amount of unused drugs or biologicals from single use vials or single use packages discarded or otherwise not administered to the member.
JZ	Zero drug amount discarded/not administered to any patient	Append modifier in all instances in which there were no discarded drug amounts from a single dose or single use package drugs.
KD	Drug or biological infused through DME	Append modifier to a code for a drug or biological that the provider infuses through DME, such as an implanted infusion pump. • This modifier applies to DME suppliers only.
KH	DMEPOS item, initial claim, purchase or first month rental	Append modifier for the first rental month or purchase option of DMEPOS,
KI	DMEPOS item, second- or third-month rental	Append modifier to identify second- or third- rental month or purchase option for DMEPOS.
KJ	DMEPOS item, parenteral enteral nutrition (PEN) pump or capped rental, months four to fifteen	Append modifier to identify the fourth to fifteenth rental month purchase option for DMEPOS; PEN pump rental or capped rental.
KL	DMEPOS item delivered via mail	Append modifier for mail order supply of DMEPOS.
KM	Replacement of facial prosthesis including new impression/mouldage	Append modifier for fabrication of any replacement of a prosthesis for any part of the face.

KN	Replacement of facial prosthesis using previous master model	Append modifier for the fabrication of any replacement prosthesis for any part of the face that the provider fabricated using a previously created mold.
KR	Rental item, billing for partial month	Append modifier for a claim for a partial month rental for DMEPOS.
LL	Lease/rental (Use the LL modifier when DME equipment rental is to be applied against the purchase price)	Append modifier to DME equipment rental items that are applied to the rental payments against the purchase price.
LU	Fractionated payment	Append modifier to CAR-T HCPCS codes by dividing the allowed total payment by 10 and bill in 0.1-unit fractions. Providers would bill a total of 10 fractional units to reach the total allowed • payment amount. Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) approved facilities must use three modifiers: LU, 76, and KX.
NU	New equipment	Append modifier when new equipment is purchased.
PD	Diagnostic or related nondiagnostic item or service provided in a wholly owned or operated entity to a patient who is admitted as an inpatient within 3 days	Append modifier to physician preadmission diagnostic and admission-related nondiagnostic services, reported with HCPCS and/or CPT codes that are subject to the three-day payment window. If the modifier is appended, eligible claims may be reimbursed per the following: • Only the professional component for CPT and/or HCPCS codes with a technical component/professional component split that are provided in the three-day payment window; and • The facility rate for codes without a technical component/professional component split.

PN	Nonexcepted service provided at an off-campus, outpatient, provider-based department of a hospital	Append modifier for non-excepted items and services provided at an off-campus, outpatient, provider-based department of a hospital. Append modifier on each claim line for non-excepted items and services, including, but not limited to, separately payable drugs, clinical laboratory tests, and therapy services.
PO	Excepted service provided at an off-campus, outpatient, provider-based department of a hospital	Append modifier for services, procedures and/or surgeries provided at off-campus provider-based outpatient departments. Append modifier on each claim line for outpatient hospital services furnished in an off-campus provider-based department of a hospital.
PT	Colorectal cancer screening test; converted to diagnostic test or other procedure	Append modifier to report colorectal cancer screening services converted to a diagnostic test or other procedure. Applies to CPT codes in the range of 10021-69990, Surgery
Q6	Service furnished under a fee-for-time compensation arrangement by a substitute physician or by a substitute physical therapist furnishing outpatient physical therapy services in a health professional shortage area, a medically underserved area, or a rural area.	Append modifier when a locum tenens, or substitute provider (physician or physical therapist) performs the services under a fee-for-time compensation agreement, in a rural area or an area with a shortage of healthcare professionals or medical services. - If a locum tenens/interim substitute physician is not contracted with the Plan, the Plan may not have the NPI number. In this scenario, the contracted Plan provider would submit the claim using their identification number with modifier Q6. - Modifier Q6 would be appended to one of the four modifier areas in field 24D of the CMS-1500 form.

QK	Medical direction of two, three or four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals	Append modifier when concurrent procedures are under the direction of an Anesthesiologist. • Modifier information is billed by an Anesthesiologist (MD/DO).
QS	Monitored anesthesia care(MAC) service	Append modifier in the second modifier position for MAC when a pricing anesthesia modifier is in the first modifier position.
QX	CRNA service: with medical direction by a physician	Append modifier when CRNA or Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) provides service under medical direction from a physician. • Modifier information is billed by a CRNA/CAA.
QY	Medical direction of one CRNA by an Anesthesiologist	Append modifier when one CRNA or CAA is under the direction of the Anesthesiologist. • Modifier information is billed by an Anesthesiologist (MD/DO).
QZ	CRNA service without medical direction by a physician	Append modifier when CRNA provides service without medical direction by a physician. • Modifier information is billed by a CRNA. • Modifier is not applicable to CAA services.
RA	Replacement of DME, orthotic or prosthetic item	Append modifier when the provider replaces the DMEPOS item. • The item was lost, stolen, or there is irreparable damage beyond repair, and the member's benefits do not exclude coverage. The first charge for the replacement unit must include modifier RA with the HCPCS code for the base item, part, or accessory that is replaced due to the above scenarios.
RB	Replacement of a part of a DME, orthotic or prosthetic item that is furnished	Append modifier for the following: • Replacement is necessary to make the base item functional. • The part or accessory is not billed on the same date of service as the base item.

	as part of a repair	• The part or accessory is not an upgrade for the base item. • The base item does not fall under the category of oxygen equipment or frequently serviced. • There was no prior denial charge for the base item. • The base item was previously purchased. This includes when an item has capped rental payment. • When the base item code and purchase date are indicated on the appropriate claim form. This modifier is not required when the HCPCS code description of the replacement component indicates the item is a replacement.
RR	Rental	Append modifier for DME rentals. • One unit of service is billed per monthly period unless classified as a daily rental.
SA	Nurse Practitioner rendering service in collaboration with a physician	Modifier SA should be used by the supervising physician when they are billing for non-surgical services rendered by a Physician Assistant (PA), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), or Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA). • Append modifier to supervising physician claim submissions when billing on behalf of a PA, APN, or CRNFA for non-surgical services. • Append modifier to PAs, APNs, or CRNFAs claim submission when billing with their own NPI number for assisting with any other non-surgical procedures. Claims will be processed based on the provider's contracting status.
SB	Nurse midwife	Append modifier when a nurse midwife performs a service, other than a surgery.
SH	Second concurrently administered infusion therapy	Append modifier to report second concurrent administered infusion therapy. • This modifier applies only to home infusion therapy.

SJ	Third or more concurrently administered infusion therapy	Services that are submitted with modifier SJ appended to them will not be reimbursed. This modifier denotes a third or more concurrent administered infusion therapy. This modifier applies only to home infusion therapy.
TB	Drug or biological acquired with 340B drug pricing program discount, reported for informational purposes for select entities	Append modifier to indicate a drug has been acquired through the 340B program. Confirm current program rules when using this modifier.
TH	Obstetrical treatment/service s, prenatal or postpartum	Append modifier when a member receives medical care for problems related to the pregnancy and following the birth of the child.
UE	Used durable medical equipment	Append modifier for used DME equipment.
XE	Separate encounter	To bill this modifier, documentation must support the service is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter.
XP	Separate Practitioner	To bill this modifier, documentation must support the service is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner.
XS	Separate structure	To bill this modifier, documentation must support the service is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure.
XU	Unusual non-overlapping service	To bill this modifier, documentation must support the use of a service is distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service.

Anatomical Modifiers

Procedure codes and modifier combinations are validated against a set of required modifiers by procedure. If a procedure with a required modifier does not have the modifier appended, the claim line(s) will deny. If an anatomical modifier is necessary to differentiate right or left and is not appended, the claim line(s) will be denied. Likewise, if a modifier is appended to a procedure code that does not match the appropriate anatomical site, the claim line(s) will be denied. CMS has identified a set of anatomical modifiers to facilitate correct coding for claims processing. Providers would append the modifier in box 24D of the CMS 1500 claim form or electronically report the first modifier in SV101-3; use the additional fields SV101-4, SV101-5 or SV101-6 if needed for additional modifiers relevant to the procedure code on the service line.

The anatomical modifiers are:

Modifier	Modifier Description
E1-E4	Eyelids
FA, F1-F9	Fingers
TA, T1-T9	Toes
LC	Left circumflex coronary artery
LD	Left anterior descending coronary artery
LM	Left main coronary artery
LT	Left side
RI	Ramus intermedius coronary artery
RC	Right coronary artery
RT	Right side
50	Bilateral procedure

HCPCS modifiers should not be submitted on claims with Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) CPT Category II codes. In this case, providers should ensure the appropriate billing of Category II modifiers.

For additional information regarding modifier reimbursement percentages, participating providers should refer to the Plan's provider website.

Additional Resources

Reimbursement Policy (formerly known as Clinical Payment and Coding Policy)

RP006 Preventive Services Policy

RP009 Co-Surgeon/Team Surgeon Policy – Professional Provider

RP010 Anesthesia Information- Professional Provider

CPCP011 Applied Behavior Analysis

RP013 Increased Procedural Services, Modifier 22 - Professional Provider

RP014 Global Surgical Package - Professional Provider

RP015 Multiple Surgical Procedures - Professional Provider

RP017 Wasted/Discarded Drugs and Biologicals Policy

CPCP019 Infusion Services

CPCP021 Laboratory Panel Billing

RP022 Pneumatic Compression Devices

CPCP024 Evaluation and Management Coding - Professional Provider

CPCP025 Corrected Claim Submissions

CPCP026 Therapeutic, Prophylactic, Diagnostic, Injection and Infusion Administration Coding

CPCP030 Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Examination Policy

CPCP032 Intraoperative Neurophysiology Monitoring (IONM) Policy

RP033 Telemedicine and Telehealth/Virtual Health Care Services Policy

CPCP036 Paravertebral Facet Injection Procedure Billing & Coding Policy

RP039 Outpatient Facility Service(s) Overlapping During an Inpatient Stay

CPCP040 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services

References

[CMS Medicare Claims Processing Manual](#), Chapter 23, Section 20-20.3. Access date Feb. 13, 2026.

[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#). Accessed Feb. 13, 2026.

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[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (2026). Healthcare Common Procedure Coding Systems (HCPCS). Accessed June 18, 2026.

Policy History

Approval Date	Description
11/27/2018	New policy
02/28/2020	Annual Review, Disclaimer Update
03/31/2021	Annual Review
04/08/2022	Annual Review
05/13/2022	Additional revisions
03/17/2023	Coding and Recommendation Updates
10/30/2023	Additional revisions
01/12/2024	Annual Review, Coding and Recommendation Updates
07/25/2025	Annual Review; Grammatical updates to policy language; Grammatical changes were made to the following modifier sections: 22, 23, 26, 33, 50, 51, 52, 57, 93, 95, LU, TB, XE, XP, XS, XU; Additional modifiers added: 63, 96, 97, GA, KD, KH, KI, KJ, KL, KM, KN, KR, LL, Q6, RA, RB; Modifier removed: JG; Additional Resources updated; References updated.
07/07/2026	Annual Review; Added modifier GN – Services delivered under an outpatient SLP plan of care. Added modifier TH - Obstetrical treatment/services, prenatal or postpartum. TX ONLY – added Modifier SA – Nurse Practitioner rendering service in collaboration with a physician, and Modifier SB – Nurse Midwife. Added CPCP025 to References.