

## MODIFIERS – Professional Claims

October 2017

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas will accept all valid CPT and HCPCS modifiers into the claims processing system. The following modifiers have logic associated with them that might impact the claim.

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**Modifier 22:** Denotes an unusual procedural service. Should only be submitted on surgical procedure codes along with supporting documentation to justify the unusual service:

- ✓ If documentation supports sufficient difficulty/complexity to warrant additional payment for a procedure submitted with Modifier-22. Otherwise, no additional payment is allowed.
- ✓ *A provider is allowed one appeal if the initial request for recognition of Modifier - 22 is denied.*

**Modifier 25:** Denotes a significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service. Should only be submitted on an evaluation and management code, and medical records should reflect the significant, separately identifiable service.

**Modifier 50:** Denotes a bilateral procedure. This modifier should be submitted only for those surgical procedures that can be performed bilaterally. To view the Multiple Surgery – Prof document go to <http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/gri/index.html>, under the General Reimbursement Information area, scroll down to the All Products News area, then go to Multiple Surgery – Prof.

**Modifier 57:** Denotes decision for surgery. This modifier will be allowed when appended to an Evaluation and Management code either 1 day prior OR same day as a MAJOR (90 day global) surgical procedure. Please follow CMS guidelines for global days, as listed in the CMS Physician Fee Schedule.

**Modifier 59:** Denotes distinct procedural service. This modifier will be allowed when appended to procedures or service that are not routinely reported together. Please follow CPT guidelines as outlined in Appendix A of the current year CPT Manual.

**Modifier XE:** Separate encounter, a service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter. Please follow CMS guidelines.

**Modifier XP:** Separate practitioner, a service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner. Please follow CMS guidelines.

**Modifier XS:** Separate structure, a service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure. Please follow CMS guideline.

**Modifier XU:** Unusual non-overlapping service, the use of a service that is distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service. Please follow CMS guidelines.

**Modifier 62:** Denotes two surgeons working together as primary surgeons. Both surgeons should submit this modifier on only those services where they are acting as primary surgeons. NOTE: Physicians acting as co-surgeons cannot bill as assistants.

**Modifier 66:** Denotes surgical team. See modifier 62 above.

### **Repeat Procedures**

**Modifier 76:** Denotes a repeat procedure by the **same** physician. Should be submitted only when a procedure is repeated on the same date of service by the **same** physician

**Modifier 77:** Denotes a repeat procedure by **another** physician. Should be submitted only when a procedure is repeated on the same date of service by **another** physician

**NOTE for Modifiers 76 and 77:** The procedure must be the same procedure. It is submitted on the claim form once and then listed again with the appropriate modifier.

### **Assistant Surgeon Modifiers**

**Modifier 80, 81, 82:** Denote assistant surgeons. Should be submitted on those surgical procedures where an assistant surgeon is warranted. NOTE: Physicians acting as assistants cannot bill as co-surgeons. Benefits will be derived based on CMS designation for Assistant Surgeon.

### **Supervision of Physician Assistant, Advanced Practice Nurse, Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant or Licensed Surgical Assistant**

The following modifiers should be used by the supervising physician, when he/she is billing for services rendered by a Physician Assistant (PA), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA) or Licensed Surgical Assistant (LSA):

#### **AS Modifier:**

- A physician should use this modifier when billing on behalf of a PA, APN, CRNFA or LSA including that providers National Provider Identifier (NPI), for services provided when the aforementioned providers are acting as an assistant during surgery. (Modifier AS to be used *ONLY* if they assist at surgery).
- PA's, APN's, CRNFA's or LSA's who are billing with their own NPI should bill using modifier- AS when assisting at surgery.

#### **SA Modifier:**

- A supervising physician should use this modifier when billing on behalf of a PA or APN for **non-surgical** services.
- PA's or APN's who are billing with their own NPI should utilize Modifier SA when assisting with any other procedure that *DOES NOT* include surgery.

### **Technical and Professional Components**

**Modifiers 26 and TC:** Modifier 26 denotes professional services for lab and radiological services. Modifier TC denotes technical component for lab and radiological services. These modifiers should be utilized on the appropriate lab and radiological procedures only, and are inherent in provider fee schedules.

NOTE: When a provider performs both the technical and professional service for a lab or radiological procedure, he/she must submit the **total** service, not each service individually