

Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Modifier Usage**

Policy Number: **G-06006**

Policy Section: **Coding**

Last Approval Date: **02/09/2022**

Effective Date: **02/09/2022**

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of our reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://provider.healthybluenc.com>. ****

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) if the service is covered by a Healthy Blue member's benefit plan. The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence.

You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedure Terminology® (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and, when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.

These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. Blue Cross NC strives to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement for covered services provided to eligible members when billed with appropriate procedure codes and appropriate modifiers when applicable unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

<https://provider.healthybluenc.com>

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NCHB-CD-RP-024059-23-SRS23969 April 2023

Reimbursement is based on the code-set combinations submitted with the correct modifiers. The use of certain modifiers requires the provider to submit supporting documentation along with the claim. Refer to the specific modifier policies for guidance on documentation submission. We reserve the right to review adherence to correct coding for high-volume modifiers.

Applicable electronic or paper claims billed without the correct modifier in the correct format may be rejected or denied. The modifier must be in capital letters if alpha or alphanumeric. Rejected or denied claims must be resubmitted with the correct modifier in conjunction with the code-set to be considered for reimbursement. Corrected and resubmitted claims are subject to timely filing guidelines. The use of correct modifiers does not guarantee reimbursement.

Reimbursement Modifiers

Reimbursement modifiers affect payment and denote circumstances when an increase or reduction is appropriate for the service provided. The modifiers must be billed in the primary or first modifier field locator.

Informational Modifiers Impacting Reimbursement

Informational modifiers determine if the service provided will be reimbursed or denied. Modifiers that impact reimbursement should be billed in modifier locator fields after reimbursement modifiers if any.

Informational Modifiers Not Impacting Reimbursement

Informational modifiers are used for documentation purposes. Modifiers that do not impact reimbursement should be billed in the subsequent modifier field locators. We reserve the right to reorder modifiers to reimburse correctly for services provided.

In the absence of state specific modifier guidance, Blue Cross NC will default to CMS guidelines.

Related Coding

Description	Comment
Reimbursement Modifiers	Reimbursement Modifiers In the absence of a modifier specific reimbursement policy, providers should refer to their provider manual and state and federal guidelines for guidance on modifiers affecting reimbursement or modifiers reimbursed specific to state and federal payment methodologies.

Policy History

02/09/2022	Policy review and effective: updated policy template; added Reimbursement Modifiers Listing - Code List as separate document, Updated Related Coding section with a Note: In the absence of a modifier specific reimbursement policy, providers should refer to their provider manual, and state and federal guidelines for guidance on modifiers affecting reimbursement or modifiers reimbursed specific to
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	state and federal payment methodology; expanded Modifier FB to Facility providers; added Modifier CO & CQ for Medicare Advantage/MMP only
07/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials

<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • Department of Health and Human Services, DHB Contract • Optum EncoderPro for Payers Professional
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Definitions

General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
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Related Policies and Materials

Assistant at Surgery (80/81/82/AS)
Claims Timely Filing
Consultations
Distinct Procedural Services (Modifiers 59, XE, XP, XS, XU)
Documentation Standards for Episodes of Care
Duplicate or Subsequent Services on the Same Date of Service
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
Modifier 22: Increased Procedural Service
Modifier 24: Unrelated Evaluation and Management Service by Same Physician during Postoperative Period
Modifier 25: Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by Same Physician on Same Day of Procedure or Other Service
Modifier 26 and TC: Professional and Technical Component
Modifier 57: Decision for Surgery
Modifier 62: Co-Surgeons
Modifier 63: Procedure on Infants Less Than 4kg
Modifier 66: Surgical Teams
Modifier 76: Repeat Procedure by Same Physician
Modifier 77: Repeat Procedure by Another Physician
Modifier 78: Unplanned Return to Operating/ Procedure Room by Same Physician Following Initial Procedure for a Related Procedure during Postoperative Period
Modifier 90: Reference (Outside) Laboratory and Pass-Through Billing
Modifier 91: Repeat Laboratory Test
Modifier LT and RT: Left Side-Right Side Procedures
Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement
Multiple Delivery Services
Physician Standby Services
Portable-Mobile-Handheld Radiology Services
Preadmission Services for Inpatient Stays
Preventive Medicine and Sick Visits on the Same Day
Professional Anesthesia Services

Reimbursement for Reduced or Discontinued Services
Robotic Assisted Surgery
Split Care Surgical Modifiers
Transportation Services
Vaccines for Children

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