

Reimbursement Policy	
Subject: Distinct Procedural Services (Modifiers 59, XE, XP, XS, XU)	
Policy Number: G-15001	Policy Section: Coding
Last Approval Date: 04/12/2022	Effective Date: 04/12/2022

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

Disclaimer

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member's Healthy Blue 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 CPT® codes, HCPCS codes, and/or revenue codes. The codes denote the services and/or procedures performed. The billed codes are required to be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.

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

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider or state contracts, or state, federal, or CMS requirements. System logic or set up may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Healthy Blue strives to minimize these variations.

Healthy Blue reserves the right to review and revise its policies periodically when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to our provider website.

Policy

Healthy Blue allows reimbursement for a procedure or service that is distinct or independent from other service(s) performed on the same day by the same provider when billed with Modifier 59, XE, XP, XS or XU (collectively known as X{EPSU}) unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

<https://provider.healthybluemo.com>

Healthy Blue follows CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edit guidelines.

Reimbursable:

- NCCI Column 1/Column 2 edits; Modifiers 59 or X{EPSU} may be appended to the paid or denied code.
- Modifier 59 if no more descriptive modifier is available such as XE, XP, XS, XU.
- Modifier 59 should not be appended to the same claim line item as X{EPSU}.

Healthy Blue reserves the right to perform post-payment review of claims submitted with Modifier 59 and X{EPSU}. Healthy Blue may request that providers submit additional documentation, including medical records or other documentation not directly related to the member, to support claims submitted by the provider. If documentation is not provided following the request or notification, or if documentation does not support the services billed for the episode of care, Healthy Blue Medicare Advantage may:

- Deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup monies previously paid on the claim.

Healthy Blue is not liable for interest or penalties when payment is denied or recouped because the provider fails to submit required or requested documentation.

Related Coding

Standard Correct Coding applies

Policy History

04/12/2022	Biennial review approved and effective: Updated policy template, no changes to policy language
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective date

References and Research Materials

<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State Medicaid • State contracts • American Medical Association: Coding with Modifiers, Fifth Edition • Optum 360 Learning: Understanding Modifiers, 2019 Edition

Definitions

Modifier 59	Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E/M services, that are not normally reported together, but are appropriate under the circumstances. Only if no more descriptive modifier is available, and the use of modifier 59 best explains the circumstances, should modifier 59 be used. Modifier 59 should not be appended to an E/M service
Modifier XE	Separate encounter, a service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter

Modifier XP	Separate practitioner, a service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner
Modifier XS	Separate structure, a service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure
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
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

Related Policies and Materials

Claims Requiring Additional Documentation
Code and Clinical Editing Guidelines
Documentation Standards for Episodes of Care
Modifier Usage