

Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Modifier Usage**

Policy Number: **G-06006**

Policy Section: **Coding**

Last Approval Date: **01/16/2024**

Effective Date: **01/16/2024**

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

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if Healthy Blue covered the service for the 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, 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These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. Healthy Blue 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.

<https://provider.healthybluemo.com>

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Policy

Healthy Blue 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.

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. Healthy Blue reserve the right to reorder modifiers to reimburse correctly for services provided.

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

Related Coding	
Modifier	Description
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	
01/16/2024	Review approved and effective: updated Reimbursement Modifiers code list to include related reimbursement policies
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: 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 methodology; expanded Modifier FB to facility providers
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- CMS
- Optum EncoderPro 2023
- State contract
- State Medicaid

Definitions

General Reimbursement Policy Definitions

Related Policies and Materials

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

Modifier 24

Modifiers 25 and 57

Modifiers 26 and TC

Modifiers 50 and 51: Multiple and Bilateral Surgery

Modifiers 52, 53, 73, and 74: Reduced or Discontinued Services

Modifier 62

Modifier 63

Modifier 66

Modifier 76

Modifier 77

Modifier 78

Modifiers 80, 81, 82, and AS: Assistant at Surgery

Modifier 90

Modifier 91

Modifiers LT and RT

Multiple Delivery Services

Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant 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

Provider Preventable Conditions

Split-Care Surgical Modifiers

Technology Assisted Surgical Procedures

Transportation Services
Vaccines for Children

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