

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://providerpublic.empireblue.com>.****

Disclaimer

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) if the service is covered by a member’s Empire 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 code(s) 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, Empire may:

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

Empire reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Empire strives to minimize these variations.

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

Policy

Empire 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 or requirements indicate otherwise.

<https://providerpublic.empireblue.com>

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Reimbursement is based on code-set combinations submitted with correct modifiers. Certain modifiers require supporting documentation to be submitted with the claim. Refer to the Specific Modifier policies for guidance on documentation submission. Empire reserves 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.

Empire reserves the right to reorder modifiers to reimburse correctly for services provided. In the absence of state-specific modifier guidance, Empire will default to CMS guidelines.

Related Coding

Description	Comment
Reimbursement Modifiers	<p>Reimbursement Modifiers</p> <p>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.</p>

Policy History

02/09/2022	<p>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 state and federal payment methodology; expanded Modifier FB to</p>
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	Facility providers; added Modifier CO & CQ for Medicare Advantage/MMP only
10/08/2020	Review approval and effective: Updated References and Research Materials, Related Policies, Exhibit A Modifiers 58, 90, CO, CQ, FB, GN, GO, GP
10/03/2018	Review approved and effective: Review adherence to correct coding policy language added; Exhibit A Modifier FX updated
08/31/2017	Review approved and effective: Exhibit A updated — Modifier QF added
04/03/2017	Review approved: Policy template updated
08/01/2016	Review approved and effective: Exhibit A updated — Modifier CT added
09/22/2014	review approved: Exhibit A updated — Modifier 99 and AG added; Background section/policy template updated
06/17/2013	Review approved: Disclaimer updated
07/30/2012	Review approved and effective 03/14/2013: Added CMS default language; Exhibit A updated — Modifier AQ updated, PA-PD modifiers removed and Modifier SA added; policy template and background section updated
02/14/2011	Review approved: Claims rejection/denial and resubmission requirements clarified; modifier requirements clarified; Reimbursement Modifiers Listing (Exhibit A) added; Background and Related Policies sections updated; policy template updated
04/24/2007	Review approved: Reimbursement and informational modifiers clarified; acceptable modifier format clarified; reordering modifiers for correct reimbursement clarified; policy template updated
03/30/2006	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- CMS
- State contract
- Optum EncoderPro 2022

Definitions

General Reimbursement Policy Definitions

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
- 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 57: Decision for Surgery
Modifier 62: Co-Surgeons
Modifier 63: Procedure on Infants Less than 4 kg
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