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**TITLE:** Medicare Teaching Physician Policy and the GC and GE Modifiers

**POLICY/PURPOSE:**

This policy serves to elaborate on requirements already stated in the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville “Teaching Physician Billing Policy” which may be found on the compliance website by clicking [here](#).

Effective January 1, 1997, when a teaching physician renders a service in accordance with the teaching physician requirements, Medicare policy states that a special modifier is to be submitted with the claim.

When one of the teaching physician modifiers are appended to the procedure code, the teaching physician is certifying that he or she has complied with the teaching physician requirements. This is the case even if a coder decides to append the modifier.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Modifier** – a special two-digit code that is appended to a CPT® procedure code to further describe the procedure code without changing the definition of it.

**Approved GME Program – An Approved Graduate Medical Education Program** is a residency or fellowship program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Only services that involve residents or fellows in an Approved GME program, that are in compliance with the teaching physician documentation requirements, are to be billed to Medicare Part B.
2. There are two teaching physician modifiers:
  - A. GC – this service has been performed in part by a resident under the direction of a teaching physician
  - B. GE – this service has been performed by a resident without the presence of a teaching physician under the primary care exception

3. Append Modifier “GC” to the procedure code when claims for services meeting Medicare’s teaching physician requirements fall outside of the primary care exception.
4. Claims for services furnished by teaching physicians under the primary care center exception must include the “-GE” modifier on the claim.
5. Modifiers which impact payment take precedence over the teaching physician modifiers and should be entered in the primary and subsequent modifier positions whenever possible. The appropriate teaching physician modifier would follow any payment modifier(s). Some examples of payment modifiers are: 50, 51, 62, 78, 82, AA, AS, and QK.
6. Failure to adhere to this policy could increase organizational billing compliance risk and as such, will result in a finding of “non-compliant, no refund” in a compliance review.

**REFERENCES:**

CMS. Internet-only Pub. # 100-04, Ch. 12, § 100.1.8 (B).

42 CFR 415.152.

**APPROVED BY:** Maryann C. Palmetter  
Director, Office of Physician Billing Compliance