

TITLE: Use of Modifier 57

POLICY/PURPOSE: To establish a procedure under which the Modifier 57 may be appended to an Evaluation and Management (E/M) code.

DEFINITIONS:

Modifier 57 Definition: Decision for Surgery

PROCEDURE:

1. CPT Instructions: Per the AMA's CPT manual, the surgical package includes E/M service(s) **subsequent to** the decision for surgery on the day before and/or the day of surgery (including history and physical).
2. An E/M service that results in the initial decision to perform the surgery may be identified by adding Modifier 57 to the appropriate level of E/M service and may be billed separately.
3. The CPT manual does not distinguish between a minor surgery and a major surgery for the purposes of Modifier 57.
4. Medicare Instructions: Per Medicare guidelines, the global surgical package includes payment for preoperative visits **after** the decision is made to operate beginning with the day before the day of surgery for **major** procedures.
5. E/M services on the day before **major** surgery or on the day of a **major** surgery that result in the initial decision to perform the surgery are not included in the global surgery payment for the major surgery and, therefore, may be billed and paid separately.
6. Modifier 57 is appended to the E/M service to identify a visit which results in the initial decision to perform **major** surgery.
7. A **major** surgery is defined as one with a global surgery indicator of "090."

The effective date of this Policy is not intended to provide a period in time when this procedure was not applicable. The effective date only represents the date the Policy and Procedure form was completed.

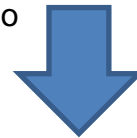
Modifier 57 Decision Chart

Was the E/M service rendered on the day before or the day of the surgery?

Yes



No



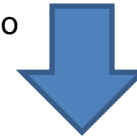
Do not append Modifier 57

Was the decision for surgery made during the E/M encounter?

Yes



No



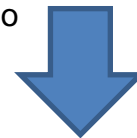
Do not append Modifier 57

Does the payer follow Medicare rules?

Yes



No



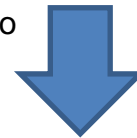
Append Modifier 57 to the E/M service

Is the surgery a major surgery?

Yes



No



Append Modifier 57 to the E/M service

Do not append Modifier 57

REFERENCES:

APPROVED BY:
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