

Commercial Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Modifier 22 – Professional**

Policy Number: **C-12003**

Policy Section: **Coding**

Last Approval Date: **04/01/2024**

Effective Date: **07/01/2024**

Disclaimer

These reimbursement 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 an Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem) 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, Anthem may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.

These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. We strive 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, Anthem will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

The Health Plan allows additional reimbursement for procedure codes appended with modifier 22, unless provider, state, or federal contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Procedure codes reported with Modifier 22 and satisfactory documentation will be eligible for 120% reimbursement of the allowance for the procedure code. The use of Modifier 22 should follow correct coding guidelines for claims submission.

Documentation submitted for use of Modifier 22 must:

- Include the typical circumstances vs. the patient's circumstances
- Compare the typical time to complete the procedure vs. the actual time the procedure took

- Clearly state the reason why additional time and/or work was required

If documentation is missing or insufficient, the procedure code is still eligible for reimbursement at 100% of the allowance for the procedure code.

NOTE: Modifier 22 is allowed with surgical procedures identified with a global period of 000, 010, 090, or YYY.

Related Coding

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| Standard correct coding applies |
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Policy History

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| 04/01/2024 | Review approved 04/01/2024 and effective 07/01/2024: removed <i>modifiers</i> from Definition section; removed <i>Increased Procedural Services</i> from policy title |
| 08/27/2021 | Review approved: policy language updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific reimbursement rate was added to the policy • sentences and documentation requirement language were streamlined • grammatical and formatting changes were made to the Policy History section |
| 07/03/2019 | Review approved: administrative changes made to the policy body |
| 06/01/2019 | Policy language updated; description section removed, added definition and related coding sections |
| 02/07/2017 | Review approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added a disclaimer that the policy applies to Employer Group Retiree Medicare Advantage Programs |
| 02/02/2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of appropriate and inappropriate uses of Modifier 22 were added to the policy • Added language requiring documentation to include the time and extra effort required to complete a surgical procedure, time and effort spent on removing adhesions during a procedure, and specific information for obese patients |
| 07/07/2015 | Review approved; no changes |
| 07/01/2014 | Review approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor grammatical and punctuation updates were made, which did not change the policy positions or criteria • Language was added to the policy description section |
| 07/02/2013 | Review approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor punctuation and language changes were • Policy section updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examples of appropriate supporting documentation were added ○ More active language was added |
| 07/10/2012 | Initial approval and effective |

References and Research Materials

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- American Academy of Professional Coders
- CMS
- Optum EncoderPro 2023

Definitions

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| Modifier 22 | An increased procedural service. When the work required to provide a service is substantially greater than typically required, it may be identified by adding modifier 22 to the usual procedure code. The modifier should not be reported with evaluation and management services. |
| General Reimbursement Policy Definitions | |

Related Policies and Materials

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| Modifier Rules - Professional |
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Use of Reimbursement Policy

This policy is subject to federal and state laws, to the extent applicable, as well as the terms, conditions, and limitations of a member's benefits on the date of service.

Reimbursement Policy is constantly evolving and we reserve the right to review and update these policies periodically.

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