	Reimbursement Policy

Subject: Modifier Usage

Effective Date: **10/08/20**	Committee Approval Obtained: **10/08/20**	Section: **Coding**

*****The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to **https://providers.healthybluela.com**.*****

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Healthy Blue if the service is covered by a member's Healthy Louisiana 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, Healthy Blue may:

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

Healthy Blue 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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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, Healthy Blue strives to minimize these variations.

Healthy Blue 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 this site.

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 Healthy Blue specific modifier policies for guidance on documentation

	submission. Healthy Blue 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 (Exhibit A) 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 reserves 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.
History	• Biennial Review approval and effective **10/08/20**: Updated References and Research Materials, Related Policies, Exhibit A Modifiers 58, 90, CO, CQ, FB, GN, GO, GP • Biennial review approved **10/03/18** and effective **10/03/18**: Review adherence to correct coding policy language added; Exhibit A Modifier FX updated • Effective **09/01/17**: Policy template updated • Review approved and effective **08/31/17**: Exhibit A updated – Modifier QF added • Review approved **04/03/17**: Policy template updated • Biennial review approved and effective **08/01/16**: Exhibit A updated – Modifier CT added; policy template updated • Biennial review approved **09/22/14**: Exhibit A updated – Modifier 99 and AG added; Background section/policy template updated • Review approved **06/17/13**: Disclaimer updated • Biennial review approved **07/30/12** and effective **03/14/13**: Default to CMS guidelines language added; Exhibit A updated – Modifier

	AQ updated, PA-PD modifiers removed and Modifier SA added; policy template and background section updated • Biennial review approved **02/14/11**: 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 • Review approved **04/24/07**: Reimbursement and informational modifiers clarified; acceptable modifier format clarified; reordering modifiers for correct reimbursement clarified; Florida exemption added; policy template updated • Initial review approved and effective **03/30/06**
References and Research Materials	This policy has been developed through consideration of the following: • American Medical Association (AMA), CPT 2020, Professional Edition • American Medical Association (AMA), HCPCS 2020, Expert Edition • CMS • Optum 360 Encoder Pro for Payers Professional • State Medicaid • State contracts
Definitions	• **General Reimbursement Policy Definitions**
Related Policies	• 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 (EPSDT) • 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 4kg • 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
Related Materials	• None

Exhibit A: Healthy Blue Reimbursement Modifiers Listing*

Modifier	Description
22	Increased procedural service
24	Unrelated Evaluation and Management service by same physician during postoperative period
25	Significant, separately identifiable Evaluation and Management service by same physician on same day of procedure or other service (also for facility use)
26	Professional component
50	Bilateral procedure (also for facility use)
51	Multiple procedure
52	Reduced service (also for facility use)
53	Discontinued service
54	Surgical care only
55	Postoperative care only
56	Preoperative care only
57	Decision for surgery
58	Staged or Related Procedure or Service by the Same Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional During the Postoperative Period
59/XE/XP/XS/XU	Distinct procedural service (also for facility use)
62	Co-surgeons
63	Procedure performed on infants less than 4 kg
66	Surgical teams
73	Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgery center procedure prior to administration of anesthesia (for facility use only)
74	Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgery center procedure after administration of anesthesia (for facility use only)
76	Repeat procedure by the same physician (also for facility use)

77	Repeat procedure by another physician (also for facility use)
78	Unplanned return to operating/ procedure room by same physician following initial procedure for a related procedure during postoperative period (also for facility use)
80	Assistant at surgery
81	Minimal assistant at surgery
82	Assistant at surgery (when a qualified resident surgeon is not available)
90	Reference (Outside) Laboratory (also for facility use)
91	Repeat laboratory test (also for facility use)
99	Multiple modifiers (also for facility use)
AA	Anesthesiology service performed personally by an anesthesiologist
AD	Medical supervision by a physician; more than four concurrent anesthesia procedures
AG	Primary physician
AH	Clinical psychologist
AJ	Clinical social worker
AS	Physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist services for assistant at surgery
CO	Outpatient occupational therapy services furnished in whole or in part by an occupational therapist assistant
CQ	Outpatient physical therapy services furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapist assistant
CT	Computed tomography services furnished using equipment that does not meet each of the attributes of the national electrical manufacturers association xr-29-2013 standard
D/E/G/H/I/J/N/P/R/S/X	Transportation origin and destination
FB	Item provided without cost to provider, supplier or practitioner, or full credit received for replaced device (examples, but not limited to, covered under warranty, replaced due to defect, free samples
FC	Partial credit received on replaced device
FX	X-ray taken using film
GF	Physician services provided by a nonphysician in a critical access hospital; nonphysician: nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified registered nurse, clinical nurse specialist, physician assistant
GM	Multiple transports
GN	Services delivered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care
GO	Services delivered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care
GP	Services delivered under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care
GT	Telemedicine via interactive audio and video telecommunications systems
HM	Less than Bachelor’s degree level
HN	Bachelor’s degree level
HO	Master’s degree level
HP	Doctoral level

HQ	Group setting (for behavioral health use)
HT	Multidisciplinary team (for behavioral health use)
KR	Rental item, durable medical equipment — billing for partial month
NU	New equipment
P1/P2/P3/P4/P5/P6	Anesthesia physical status
QF	Prescribed amount of oxygen exceeds four liters per minute and portable oxygen is prescribed.
QK	Medical direction of two, three or four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals
QL	Member pronounced dead after ambulance called but before loaded onboard ambulance
QX	Certified registered nurse anesthetist service with medical direction by a physician
QY	Anesthesiologist medically directs one certified registered nurse anesthetist
QZ	Certified registered nurse anesthetist service without medical direction by a physician
RR	Rental equipment
SA	Nurse practitioner rendering service in collaboration with a physician
SB	Nurse practitioner (for use by midwives only)
SH	Second concurrently administered infusion therapy
SJ	Third or more concurrently administered infusion therapy
TC	Technical component
TD	Registered nurse (for behavioral health, physical health and home health use)
TE	Licensed practical nurse (for behavioral health, physical health and home health use)
TK	Extra member or passenger nonambulance transportation
UE	Used equipment
UN	Portable/mobile radiology transport — two members served
UP	Portable/mobile radiology transport — three members served
UQ	Portable/mobile radiology transport — four members served
UR	Portable/mobile radiology transport — five members served
US	Portable/mobile radiology transport — six or more members served

* The above list does not include market-specific modifiers. All modifiers are for use by professional providers only unless otherwise indicated in modifier description.