



Reimbursement Policy

Subject: Split-Care Surgical Modifiers

Effective Date:
03/01/21

Committee Approval Obtained:
07/13/20

Section: **Coding**

*****The most current version of the 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.amerigroup.com>. Under Quick Tools, select Reimbursement Policies > Medicaid. Note: State-specific exemptions may apply. Please refer to the Exemptions section below for specific exemptions based on your state.*****

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

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

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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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

Amerigroup 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

Amerigroup allows reimbursement of **surgical codes** appended with split-care modifiers unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

	<p>Reimbursement is based on a percentage of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the surgical procedure. The percentage is determined by which modifier is appended to the procedure code.</p> <p>Unless otherwise noted in Exhibit A, Amerigroup will use the following standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier 54 (surgical care only): 70% • Modifier 55 (postoperative management only): 20% • Modifier 56 (preoperative management only): 10% <p>The global surgical package consists of preoperative services, surgical procedures and postoperative services. Total reimbursement for a global surgical package is the same, regardless of how the billing is split between the different physicians involved in the member’s care.</p> <p>When more than one physician performs services that are included in the global surgical package, the total amount reimbursed for all physicians may not be higher than what would have been paid if a single physician provided all services.</p> <p>Correct coding guidelines require that the same surgical procedure code (with the appropriate modifier) be used by each physician to identify the services provided when the components of a global surgical package are performed by different physicians.</p> <p>Claims received with split-care modifiers after a global surgical claim have been paid will be denied.</p> <p>When an assistant surgeon is used and/or multiple procedures are performed, assistant surgeon and/or multiple procedure rules and fee reductions apply.</p>
<p>History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial Review approved 07/13/20 and effective 03/01/21: updated Exhibit A for Tennessee • Review approved and effective 09/29/16: Exhibit updated • Biennial review approved and effective 08/01/16: Exhibit A: Split-Care Surgical Modifiers Reimbursement grid added; Definition section updated • Biennial review approved 05/12/14: Policy language updated • Review approved 03/14/13 and effective 03/14/13 : Washington exemptions added; Policy template updated 03/14/13 • Biennial review approved 11/07/11 and effective 03/16/12: Policy adapted from Modifier 54: Surgical Care Only (#06-012), Modifier 55: Postoperative Management Only (#06-013) and Modifier 56: Preoperative Management Only (#06-014) policies; Maryland

	<p>exemption added; Definitions section updated; Reference materials updated to indicate 2010 editions; Policy template updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial approval 05/04/06: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modifier 54: Surgical Care Only effective: 10/01/06 ○ Modifier 55: Postoperative Management Only effective: 05/04/06 • Modifier 56: Preoperative Management Only effective: 05/04/06
References and Research Materials	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State Medicaid • Amerigroup state contracts
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier 54: When one physician or other qualified health care professional performs a surgical procedure and another provides preoperative and/or postoperative management, surgical services may be identified by adding Modifier 54 to the usual procedure number • Modifier 55: When one physician or other qualified health care professional performed the postoperative management and another has performed the surgical procedure, the postoperative component may be identified by adding Modifier 55 to the usual procedure number • Modifier 56: When one physician or other qualified health care professional performed the preoperative care and evaluation and another performed the surgical procedure, the preoperative component may be identified by adding Modifier 56 to the usual procedure number • General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant at Surgery (Modifiers 80/81/82/AS) • Code and Clinical Editing Guidelines • Modifier Usage • Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement
Related Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Exhibit A: Split-Care Surgical Modifiers Reimbursement

Market	Split-care modifier usage			
	54	55	56	Notes
Georgia	GBD standard	GBD standard	GBD standard	
Maryland	80%	GBD standard	Not payable	
New Jersey	GBD standard	GBD standard	GBD standard	
Tennessee	GBD standard	GBD standard	Not Payable	
Texas	GBD standard	GBD standard	GBD standard	
Washington	80%	10%	GBD standard	