Modifiers XE, XS, XP and XU – Separate Encounter, Separate Structure, Separate Practitioner and Unusual Overlapping service

Coverage of any service is determined by a member’s eligibility, benefit limits for the service or services rendered and the application of the Plan’s Medical Policy. Final payment is subject to the application of claims adjudication edits common to the industry and the Plan’s professional services claims coding policies. Reimbursement is restricted to the provider's scope of practice as well as the fee schedule applicable to that provider.

**Purpose**
To define how the Plan recognizes separate encounters, separate structures, separate practitioners and unusual overlapping services when appended by specific modifiers.

**Scope**
Applies to all Company lines of business and products with the exception of Medicare Advantage.

**Policy**
The Plan recognizes that it may be necessary to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other services performed on the same day.

Modifiers XE, XS, XP and XU can be used to identify services that are not normally reported together but are appropriate under certain documented circumstances.

Modifiers XE, XS, XP and XU describe specific information and circumstances regarding why two or more services are appropriately reported together.

Modifiers XE, XS, XP and XU take precedence over the use of modifier 59 due to their greater specificity. These modifiers are defined as follows:

- **Modifier XE: Separate Encounter** – a service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter (e.g. separate surgical sessions after discharged from surgical suite; different block of time resulting in no overlap of services)

- **Modifier XS: Separate Structure** – a service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure (e.g. different anatomic location)

- **Modifier XP: Separate Practitioner** – a service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner

- **Modifier XU: Unusual non-overlapping service** – the use of a service that is
distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service (e.g. performed through separate incision/excision, performed on separate lesions, separate injuries or areas of injury during same operative session)

Documentation must be on file and available for viewing upon request to support that the procedure or service was a distinct or separate encounter, structure, practitioner or an unusual non-overlapping service.

Modifier 59 will continue to be recognized as a modifier of last resort only when a more specific modifier cannot be found. Modifier 59 should not be submitted on the same line as modifiers XE, XS, XP or XU.

Modifiers XE, XS, XP and XU should not be appended to an Evaluation and Management (E&M) code.

Use of these “X” modifiers does NOT exempt the service from any multiple procedure reductions. Claim submissions with multiple surgical, multiple endoscopic or multiple diagnostic radiologic, cardiovascular or ophthalmologic procedures will be subject to criteria in the Multiple Surgical Reductions, Multiple Endoscopy Reductions or the Multiple Diagnostic Radiologic, Multiple Diagnostic Cardiovascular and Multiple Diagnostic Ophthalmology Payment Policies.

**Violations of Policy**

Violations of this policy by any party that enters into a written arrangement with the Plan may result in increased auditing and monitoring, performance guarantee contractual penalties and/or termination of the contract. Disciplinary actions will be appropriate to the seriousness of the violation and shall be determined in Plan’s sole discretion.

Violations of this policy may be grounds for corrective action, up to and including termination of employment.

**Exceptions**

N/A

**Laws, Regulations & Standards**

None

**References**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II Codebook
- Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit reports

**Policy Owner Review**

Provider Integrity Oversight Committee

**Contact**

Any questions regarding the contents of this policy or its application should be directed to the Payment Policy Department.

**Annual Review Dates**

01/10/20; 01/10/19; 02/06/18; 03/17/17; 04/27/16; 04/30/15; 12/07/14

**Version History**

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