

Payment Policy

cmi_117896

Title	Modifier SL – State Supplied Vaccine		
Number	CP.PP.370.v2.3		
Last Approval Date	10/03/24	Original Effective Date	07/30/10
Cross Reference			
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 or facility 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 when the Plan recognizes and reimburses services appended with Modifier SL that are submitted on a CMS 1500 paper claim or 837P electronic claim form.
Scope	Applies to all Premera Blue Cross, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, LifeWise Health Plan of Washington, LifeWise Assurance Company, and Premera Blue Cross HMO lines of business and products.
Policy	<p>The Plan recognizes modifier SL to indicate that a vaccine was obtained at no cost to the provider. Therefore, a vaccine code billed with modifier SL will not be reimbursed. The procedure code(s) representing the administration of the vaccines will be reimbursed.</p> <p>Modifier SL is not appropriate to be appended to a vaccine administration code and will be denied as incorrect coding.</p> <p>Per Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding guidelines, administration procedure codes 90460 and 90461 include face-to-face counseling of the patient/family/guardian during the administration of the vaccine and administration procedure codes 90471-90474 do not include a face-to-face counseling to the patient/family/guardian.</p> <p>Vaccine administration codes 90460-90461 and 90471-90474 should not be reported with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) vaccine procedure codes 91304, and 91318-91322. These SARS-CoV2 vaccine procedure codes (91304, 91318-91322) are reported with administration procedure code 90480.</p>

Codes/Coding Guidelines	<p>Vaccine administration codes include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90460 – Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration, with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; first or only component of each vaccine or toxoid administered • +90461 – Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration, with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; each additional vaccine or toxoid component administered (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report 90461 in conjunction with code 90460 for each additional component of a given vaccine • 90471 – Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not report 90471 in conjunction with code 90473 • +90472 – Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report 90472 in conjunction with codes 90460, 90471, 90473 • 90473 – Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not report code 90473 in conjunction with code 90471 • +90474 – Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report code 90474 in conjunction with codes 90460, 90471, 90473 • 90480 - Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, single dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report 90480 for the administration of vaccine 91304, 91318, 91319, 91320, 91321, 91322 ○ Do not report 90480 in conjunction with non-COVID vaccines 90476-90759 <p>+ = Add-on code; must be billed with an appropriate primary procedure code</p>
Violations of Policy	<p>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 determined in Plan's sole discretion.</p> <p>Violations of this policy may be grounds for corrective action, up to and including termination of employment.</p>
Exceptions	Vaccines billed by the Washington State Vaccine Association are allowed/reimbursed when appended with modifier SL.
Laws, Regulations & Standards	None
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington State Vaccine Association Assessment Grid (link) • Alaska State Immunization Program Formulary (link)

Policy Owner Review	Payment Integrity Oversight Committee	
Contact	Any questions regarding the contents of this policy or its application should be directed to the Payment Integrity Department.	
Annual Review Dates	01/16/24; 11/09/23; 12/07/22; 01/07/22; 01/27/21; 02/10/20; 02/18/19; 02/27/18; 04/10/17; 05/23/16; 05/30/15; 06/08/14; 06/09/13; 07/05/11; 07/30/10	
Version History	02/27/18	Clarified what happens if a provider submits modifier other than the Washington State Vaccine Association
	02/18/19	Clarified second paragraph in Policy to indicate when modifier SL will/will not be reimbursed
	02/10/20	Updated the link to the Washington Vaccination Assessment grids
	01/27/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the Purpose statement to indicate that the policy pertains to Professional services billed on a CMS-1500 or 837P electronic claim forms Clarified that the vaccines in question are those listed on the current Washington State Vaccine Association Assessment Grid
	01/07/22	Annual review; no changes
	12/07/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Policy section, added the final paragraph noting that modifier SL is not appropriate to be appended to vaccine administration codes. Added new section Codes/Coding Guidelines and listed the applicable vaccine administration codes.
	11/09/23	Revised Policy statement. Added an Exception. Included a link to the Alaska State Immunization Program Formulary grid.
	01/16/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the fourth paragraph, clarified that the vaccine administration codes 90460-90461 and 90471-90474 are not valid administration code for the SARS-CoV2 vaccine codes. Also corrected the range of terminated SARS-CoV2 codes to 91300-91317. In the “Codes/Coding Guidelines” section, added the last bullet for procedure code 90480 for the administration of the current SARS-CoV2 vaccines.
	10/03/24	Removed the SARS-CoV2 vaccine procedure codes that were terminated 11/01/2023.