

n05721

**Co-Surgeon and Team Surgeon Policy***Values*

Accountability • Integrity • Service Excellence • Innovation • Collaboration

**Abstract Purpose:**

This reimbursement policy outlines Network Health's process, for all lines of business, when services are provided by co-surgeons and/or team surgeons.

**Policy Detail:**

- I. Procedure codes eligible for reimbursement for co-surgeons and team surgeons are codes designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) located on the National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative Value File.

**II. Status Code Indicators**

A status code indicator in the co-surgeon/team surgeon column on the NPFS indicates when a co-surgeon or a team surgeon is allowed or not allowed.

- A. All codes on the NPFS with a status code indicator of 1 or 2 should be submitted with Modifier 62 (co-surgeons) or Modifier 66 (team surgeons).

Status Code Indicator	Description
0	Co-surgeons/team surgeons are not permitted for the procedure.
1	Co-surgeons/team surgeons could be paid, though supporting documentation is required to establish the medical necessity of two surgeons/team surgeons for the procedure.
2	Co-surgeons/team surgeons permitted.
9	Co-surgeons/team surgeon concept does not apply.

**III. Reimbursement**

Network Health will reimburse all eligible procedures submitted by co-surgeons or team surgeons by sixty-two point five percent (62.5%) of the allowed amount.

**IV. Bilateral Surgeries**

Each surgeon should report the simultaneous bilateral procedure(s) with the bilateral procedure modifier and the co-surgeon or team surgeon modifier.

**V. Multiple Procedures**

Multiple procedure reductions apply to co-surgeon and team surgeon claim submissions when one or more physicians are billing multiple procedure codes that are eligible for reductions.

**VI. Modifiers:**

Modifier definitions are listed below:

Modifier	Description
50	Bilateral Procedure
51	Multiple Procedure
62	Two Surgeons
66	Surgical Team

**Definitions:**

**Bilateral Surgeries:** Simultaneous bilateral services are those procedures in which each surgeon performs the same procedure on opposite sides.

**Co-surgeons:** Co-surgeons are when two surgeons work together as primary surgeons performing distinct part(s) of a procedure.

**Team surgeons:** Team surgeons are three or more surgeons (with different or same specialties) working together during an operative session in the management of a specific surgical procedure.

**Regulatory Citations:**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

**Related Policies:**

Bilateral Procedures

Multiple and Endoscopic Procedure Policy (Commercial)

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