

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 at 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

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