Procedure 1206- Assistant Surgeon

Lines of Business: All

Purpose: This Network Health guideline describes services provided by assistant surgeons that are reimbursable and the method for determining reimbursement amounts for assistant surgeon services.

Procedure: An assistant at surgery is a physician or a health care professional who actively assists the physician performing a surgical procedure. Assistants at surgery are considered medically necessary for some surgical procedures. Codes eligible for reimbursement for an assistant at surgery are codes designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) located on the National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative Value File.

A status code in the assistant surgeon column on the NPFS indicates when an assistant at surgery is allowed or not allowed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status Indicators</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Payment restriction for assistants at surgery applies to this procedure unless supporting documentation is submitted to establish medical necessity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Statutory payment restriction for assistants at surgery applies to the procedure and assistant at surgery may not be paid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Payment restriction for assistants at surgery does not apply to the procedure and assistant at surgery may be allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Concept does not apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only one assistant at surgery will be reimbursed for each eligible procedure. The assistant at surgery must be a participating provider with Network Health.

The assistant at surgery should submit the identical procedure code(s) as the primary surgeon with an appropriate assistant at surgery modifier to represent their service(s).

Reimbursement
Claims will be processed by Network Health as follows:

- 20 percent of the surgical allowed amount for M.D. or D.O. assistant surgeons.
- 10 percent of the surgical allowed amount for a non-physician practitioner (Nurse Practitioners (N.P.) and Physician Assistants (P.A.).
- If an assistant at surgery submits multiple procedure codes, multiple procedure reductions and assistant surgeon reductions will apply. Refer to Network Health’s Procedure 1217-Multiple and Endoscopic Procedures.
Cesarean Section

Only a non-global cesarean section delivery (without antepartum or postpartum components) is a reimbursable service when submitted with an appropriate assistant surgeon modifier.

Global cesarean section CPT codes submitted by an assistant surgeon will be reimbursed using the non-global cesarean section codes.

This policy is not a guarantee of coverage or payment. The claim(s) will be denied if it does not meet with all the terms and provisions of the members Certificate of Coverage. Actual benefits will be determined when the claim(s) or bill(s) are submitted to NHP/NHIC/NHAS. NHP/NHIC/NHAS reserves the right to periodically review and update all claim guidelines, policies and procedures.

HMO plans underwritten by Network Health Plan. POS Plans underwritten by Network Health Insurance Corporation, or Network Health Insurance Corporation and Network Health Plan. Self-funded HMO and POS plans administered by Network Health Administrative Services, LLC.

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