

Modifier –51 Exempt Codes

Summary of Logic Change:

Exclude attached list of codes from the application of Multiple Surgery reductions.

Eligibility:

The codes that appear in Appendix E of the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual are exempt from the use of the –51 modifier but have not been designated as CPT add-on codes.

These codes are identified throughout the text of the CPT book with the null Ø sign.

Rationale:

These codes do not meet the CPT criteria to be designated as add-on codes. However, because of special circumstances, these codes are reported without the use of the –51 modifier. Payment according to the RBRVS method has already reduced the work values associated with these services and a further reduction through multiple surgical logic is not required.

Disclaimer:

Eligibility, benefits, limitations, exclusions, precert/referral/coverage requirements, provider contracts and specific medical policy still apply to these changes in reimbursement rules. This change does not supercede these other product requirements.

Table of eligible codes attached

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
17004	Destruction (eg, laser surgery, electrosurgery, cryosurgery, chemosurgery, surgical curettement), all benign or premalignant lesions (eg, actinic keratoses) other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions; 15 or more lesions
17304	Chemosurgery (Mohs micrographic technique), including removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimens, mapping, color coding of specimens, microscopic examination of specimens by the surgeon, and complete histopathologic preparation including the first routine stain (eg, hematoxylin and eosin, toluidine blue); first stage, fresh tissue technique, up to 5 specimens
17305	Chemosurgery (Mohs micrographic technique), including removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimens, mapping, color coding of specimens, microscopic examination of specimens by the surgeon, and complete histopathologic preparation including the first routine stain (eg, hematoxylin and eosin, toluidine blue); second stage, fixed or fresh tissue, up to 5 specimens
17306	Chemosurgery (Mohs micrographic technique), including removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimens, mapping, color coding of specimens, microscopic examination of specimens by the surgeon, and complete histopathologic preparation including the first routine stain (eg, hematoxylin and eosin, toluidine blue); third stage, fixed or fresh tissue, up to 5 specimens
17307	Chemosurgery (Mohs micrographic technique), including removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimens, mapping, color coding of specimens, microscopic examination of specimens by the surgeon, and complete histopathologic preparation including the first routine stain (eg, hematoxylin and eosin, toluidine blue); additional stage(s), up to 5 specimens, each stage
20660	Application of cranial tongs, caliper, or stereotactic frame, including removal (separate procedure)
20690	Application of a uniplane (pins or wires in one plane), unilateral, external fixation system
20692	Application of a multiplane (pins or wires in more than one plane), unilateral, external fixation system (eg, Ilizarov, Monticelli type)
20900	Bone graft, any donor area; minor or small (eg, dowel or button)
20902	Bone graft, any donor area; major or large
20910	Cartilage graft; costochondral
20912	Cartilage graft; nasal septum
20920	Fascia lata graft; by stripper
20922	Fascia lata graft; by incision and area exposure, complex or sheet
20924	Tendon graft, from a distance (eg, palmaris, toe extensor, plantaris)
20926	Tissue grafts, other (eg, paratenon, fat, dermis)
20930	Allograft for spine surgery only; morselized
20931	Allograft for spine surgery only; structural
20936	Autograft for spine surgery only (includes harvesting the graft); local (eg, ribs, spinous process, or laminar fragments) obtained from same incision
20937	Autograft for spine surgery only (includes harvesting the graft); morselized (through separate skin or fascial incision)
20938	Autograft for spine surgery only (includes harvesting the graft); structural, bicortical or tricortical (through separate skin or fascial incision)
20974	Electrical stimulation to aid bone healing; noninvasive (nonoperative)
20975	Electrical stimulation to aid bone healing; invasive (operative)
22840	Posterior non-segmental instrumentation (eg, Harrington rod technique, pedicle fixation across one interspace, atlantoaxial transarticular screw fixation, sublaminar wiring at C1, facet screw fixation)

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
22841	Internal spinal fixation by wiring of spinous processes
22842	Posterior segmental instrumentation (eg, pedicle fixation, dual rods with multiple hooks and sublaminar wires); 3 to 6 vertebral segments
22843	Posterior segmental instrumentation (eg, pedicle fixation, dual rods with multiple hooks and sublaminar wires); 7 to 12 vertebral segments
22844	Posterior segmental instrumentation (eg, pedicle fixation, dual rods with multiple hooks and sublaminar wires); 13 or more vertebral segments
22845	Anterior instrumentation; 2 to 3 vertebral segments
22846	Anterior instrumentation; 4 to 7 vertebral segments
22847	Anterior instrumentation; 8 or more vertebral segments
22848	Pelvic fixation (attachment of caudal end of instrumentation to pelvic bony structures) other than sacrum
22851	Application of intervertebral biomechanical device(s) (eg, synthetic cage(s), threaded bone dowel(s), methylmethacrylate) to vertebral defect or interspace
31500	Intubation, endotracheal, emergency procedure
32000	Thoracentesis, puncture of pleural cavity for aspiration, initial or subsequent
32002	Thoracentesis with insertion of tube with or without water seal (eg, for pneumothorax) (separate procedure)
32020	Tube thoracostomy with or without water seal (eg, for abscess, hemothorax, empyema) (separate procedure)
33517	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); single vein graft (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
33518	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); two venous grafts (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
33519	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); three venous grafts (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
33521	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); four venous grafts (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
33522	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); five venous grafts (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
33523	Coronary artery bypass, using venous graft(s) and arterial graft(s); six or more venous grafts (List separately in addition to code for arterial graft)
35600	Harvest of upper extremity artery, one segment, for coronary artery bypass procedure
36488	Placement of central venous catheter (subclavian, jugular, or other vein) (eg, for central venous pressure, hyperalimentation, hemodialysis, or chemotherapy); percutaneous, age 2 years or under
36489	Placement of central venous catheter (subclavian, jugular, or other vein) (eg, for central venous pressure, hyperalimentation, hemodialysis, or chemotherapy); percutaneous, over age 2
36490	Placement of central venous catheter (subclavian, jugular, or other vein) (eg, for central venous pressure, hyperalimentation, hemodialysis, or chemotherapy); cutdown, age 2 years or under
36491	Placement of central venous catheter (subclavian, jugular, or other vein) (eg, for central venous pressure, hyperalimentation, hemodialysis, or chemotherapy); cutdown, over age 2
36620	Arterial catheterization or cannulation for sampling, monitoring or transfusion (separate procedure); percutaneous
36660	Catheterization, umbilical artery, newborn, for diagnosis or therapy
38792	Injection procedure; for identification of sentinel node
44500	Introduction of long gastrointestinal tube (eg, Miller-Abbott) (separate procedure)

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
61107	Twist drill hole for subdural or ventricular puncture; for implanting ventricular catheter or pressure recording device
61210	Burr hole(s); for implanting ventricular catheter, reservoir, EEG electrode(s) or pressure recording device (separate procedure)
62284	Injection procedure for myelography and/or computed tomography, spinal (other than C1-C2 and posterior fossa)
90281	Immune globulin (Ig), human, for intramuscular use
90283	Immune globulin (IgIV), human, for intravenous use
90287	Botulinum antitoxin, equine, any route
90288	Botulism immune globulin, human, for intravenous use
90291	Cytomegalovirus immune globulin (CMV-IgIV), human, for intravenous use
90296	Diphtheria antitoxin, equine, any route
90371	Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), human, for intramuscular use
90375	Rabies immune globulin (RIG), human, for intramuscular and/or subcutaneous use
90376	Rabies immune globulin, heat-treated (RIG-HT), human, for intramuscular and/or subcutaneous use
90378	Respiratory syncytial virus immune globulin (RSV-IgIM), for intramuscular use, 50 mg, each
90379	Respiratory syncytial virus immune globulin (RSV-IgIV), human, for intravenous use
90384	Rho(D) immune globulin (Rhlg), human, full-dose, for intramuscular use
90385	Rho(D) immune globulin (Rhlg), human, mini-dose, for intramuscular use
90386	Rho(D) immune globulin (RhlgIV), human, for intravenous use
90389	Tetanus immune globulin (Tlg), human, for intramuscular use
90393	Vaccinia immune globulin, human, for intramuscular use
90396	Varicella-zoster immune globulin, human, for intramuscular use
90399	Unlisted immune globulin
90476	Adenovirus vaccine, type 4, live, for oral use
90477	Adenovirus vaccine, type 7, live, for oral use
90581	Anthrax vaccine, for subcutaneous use
90585	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG) for tuberculosis, live, for percutaneous use
90586	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG) for bladder cancer, live, for intravesical use
90632	Hepatitis A vaccine, adult dosage, for intramuscular use
90633	Hepatitis A vaccine, pediatric/adolescent dosage-2 dose schedule, for intramuscular use
90634	Hepatitis A vaccine, pediatric/adolescent dosage-3 dose schedule, for intramuscular use
90636	Hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine (HepA-HepB), adult dosage, for intramuscular use
90645	Hemophilus influenza b vaccine (Hib), HbOC conjugate (4 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90646	Hemophilus influenza b vaccine (Hib), PRP-D conjugate, for booster use only, intramuscular use
90647	Hemophilus influenza b vaccine (Hib), PRP-OMP conjugate (3 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90648	Hemophilus influenza b vaccine (Hib), PRP-T conjugate (4 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90657	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, 6-35 months dosage, for intramuscular or jet injection use
90658	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, 3 years and above dosage, for intramuscular or jet injection use
90659	Influenza virus vaccine, whole virus, for intramuscular or jet injection use
90660	Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use
90665	Lyme disease vaccine, adult dosage, for intramuscular use

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
90669	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, polyvalent, for children under five years, for intramuscular use
90675	Rabies vaccine, for intramuscular use
90676	Rabies vaccine, for intradermal use
90680	Rotavirus vaccine, tetravalent, live, for oral use
90690	Typhoid vaccine, live, oral
90691	Typhoid vaccine, Vi capsular polysaccharide (ViCPs), for intramuscular use
90692	Typhoid vaccine, heat- and phenol-inactivated (H-P), for subcutaneous or intradermal use
90693	Typhoid vaccine, acetone-killed, dried (AKD), for subcutaneous or jet injection use (U.S. military)
90700	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP), for intramuscular use
90701	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and whole cell pertussis vaccine (DTP), for intramuscular use
90702	Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (DT) adsorbed for use in individuals younger than seven years, for intramuscular use
90703	Tetanus toxoid adsorbed, for intramuscular or jet injection use
90704	Mumps virus vaccine, live, for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90705	Measles virus vaccine, live, for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90706	Rubella virus vaccine, live, for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90707	Measles, mumps and rubella virus vaccine (MMR), live, for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90708	Measles and rubella virus vaccine, live, for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90710	Measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine (MMRV), live, for subcutaneous use
90712	Poliovirus vaccine, (any type(s)) (OPV), live, for oral use
90713	Poliovirus vaccine, inactivated, (IPV), for subcutaneous use
90716	Varicella virus vaccine, live, for subcutaneous use
90717	Yellow fever vaccine, live, for subcutaneous use
90718	Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) adsorbed for use in individuals seven years or older, for intramuscular or jet injection
90719	Diphtheria toxoid, for intramuscular use
90720	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and whole cell pertussis vaccine and Hemophilus influenza B vaccine (DTP-Hib), for intramuscular use
90721	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccine and Hemophilus influenza B vaccine (DtaP-Hib), for intramuscular use
90723	Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis vaccine, Hepatitis B, and poliovirus vaccine, inactivated (DtaP-HepB-IPV), for intramuscular use
90725	Cholera vaccine for injectable use
90727	Plague vaccine, for intramuscular or jet injection use
90732	Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, 23-valent, adult or immunosuppressed patient dosage, for use in individuals 2 years or older, for subcutaneous or intramuscular use
90733	Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (any group(s)), for subcutaneous or jet injection use
90735	Japanese encephalitis virus vaccine, for subcutaneous use
90740	Hepatitis B vaccine, dialysis or immunosuppressed patient dosage (3 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90743	Hepatitis B vaccine, adolescent (2 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90744	Hepatitis B vaccine, pediatric/adolescent dosage (3 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90746	Hepatitis B vaccine, adult dosage, for intramuscular use
90747	Hepatitis B vaccine, dialysis or immunosuppressed patient dosage (4 dose schedule), for intramuscular use
90748	Hepatitis B and Hemophilus influenza b vaccine (HepB-Hib), for intramuscular use

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
90749	Unlisted vaccine/toxoid
93501	Right heart catheterization
93503	Insertion and placement of flow directed catheter (eg, Swan-Ganz) for monitoring purposes
93505	Endomyocardial biopsy
93508	Catheter placement in coronary artery(s), arterial coronary conduit(s), and/or venous coronary bypass graft(s) for coronary angiography without concomitant left heart catheterization
93510	Left heart catheterization, retrograde, from the brachial artery, axillary artery or femoral artery; percutaneous
93511	Left heart catheterization, retrograde, from the brachial artery, axillary artery or femoral artery; by cutdown
93514	Left heart catheterization by left ventricular puncture
93524	Combined transseptal and retrograde left heart catheterization
93526	Combined right heart catheterization and retrograde left heart catheterization
93527	Combined right heart catheterization and transseptal left heart catheterization through intact septum (with or without retrograde left heart catheterization)
93528	Combined right heart catheterization with left ventricular puncture (with or without retrograde left heart catheterization)
93529	Combined right heart catheterization and left heart catheterization through existing septal opening (with or without retrograde left heart catheterization)
93530	Right heart catheterization, for congenital cardiac anomalies
93531	Combined right heart catheterization and retrograde left heart catheterization, for congenital cardiac anomalies
93532	Combined right heart catheterization and transseptal left heart catheterization through intact septum with or without retrograde left heart catheterization, for congenital cardiac anomalies
93533	Combined right heart catheterization and transseptal left heart catheterization through existing septal opening, with or without retrograde left heart catheterization, for congenital cardiac anomalies
93539	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for selective opacification of arterial conduits (eg, internal mammary), whether native or used for bypass
93540	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for selective opacification of aortocoronary venous bypass grafts, one or more coronary arteries
93541	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for pulmonary angiography
93542	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for selective right ventricular or right atrial angiography
93543	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for selective left ventricular or left atrial angiography
93544	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for aortography
93545	Injection procedure during cardiac catheterization; for selective coronary angiography (injection of radiopaque material may be by hand)
93555	Imaging supervision, interpretation and report for injection procedure(s) during cardiac catheterization; ventricular and/or atrial angiography
93556	Imaging supervision, interpretation and report for injection procedure(s) during cardiac catheterization; pulmonary angiography, aortography, and/or selective coronary angiography including venous bypass grafts and arterial conduits (whether native or used in bypass)
93600	Bundle of His recording
93602	Intra-atrial recording

Modifier-51 Exempt Codes

Code	Code Narrative
93603	Right ventricular recording
93610	Intra-atrial pacing
93612	Intraventricular pacing
93615	Esophageal recording of atrial electrogram with or without ventricular electrogram(s);
93616	Esophageal recording of atrial electrogram with or without ventricular electrogram(s); with pacing
93618	Induction of arrhythmia by electrical pacing
93619	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording, including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, without induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia
93620	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording
93624	Electrophysiologic follow-up study with pacing and recording to test effectiveness of therapy, including induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia
93631	Intra-operative epicardial and endocardial pacing and mapping to localize the site of tachycardia or zone of slow conduction for surgical correction
93640	Electrophysiologic evaluation of single or dual chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator leads including defibrillation threshold evaluation (induction of arrhythmia, evaluation of sensing and pacing for arrhythmia termination) at time of initial implantation or replacement;
93641	Electrophysiologic evaluation of single or dual chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator leads including defibrillation threshold evaluation (induction of arrhythmia, evaluation of sensing and pacing for arrhythmia termination) at time of initial implantation or replacement; with testing of single or dual chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator pulse generator
93642	Electrophysiologic evaluation of single or dual chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator (includes defibrillation threshold evaluation, induction of arrhythmia, evaluation of sensing and pacing for arrhythmia termination, and programming or reprogramming of sensing or therapeutic parameters)
93650	Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement
93651	Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination
93652	Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia
93660	Evaluation of cardiovascular function with tilt table evaluation, with continuous ECG monitoring and intermittent blood pressure monitoring, with or without pharmacological intervention
95900	Nerve conduction, amplitude and latency/velocity study, each nerve; motor, without F-wave study
95903	Nerve conduction, amplitude and latency/velocity study, each nerve; motor, with F-wave study
95904	Nerve conduction, amplitude and latency/velocity study, each nerve; sensory
99141	Sedation with or without analgesia (conscious sedation); intravenous, intramuscular or inhalation
99142	Sedation with or without analgesia (conscious sedation); oral, rectal and/or intranasal