

Multiple Procedures Modifier -51

Summary of Logic Change:

For the attached list of codes, allow reimbursement when reported as a multiple procedure.

Eligibility:

Codes in the Anesthesia, Surgical, Radiological, and Medicine sections of the CPT book.

Rationale:

Modifier -51 designates multiple procedures that are rendered at the same operative session or on the same day. The CPT Book states that Modifier -51 should be used when a combination of surgical services, medical services, or surgical and medical services are provided. It is applicable when unrelated procedures are performed at the same operative session or when multiple related procedures are performed and there is no single inclusive code available. Do not append Modifier -51 to those procedures designated as add-on or Modifier -51 exempt. List the primary procedure first on the CMS-1500 claim form, and then attach Modifier -51 to each secondary procedure code. The following guidelines make good billing and coding practice for Modifier -51:

- List the procedure code with the highest value first when billing
- List additional procedures by descending value.
- Clearly state in the operative reports which procedures were accomplished through separate incisions and which were done through the same incision.
- If a comprehensive procedure has a single CPT code, report that code rather than "unbundling" or listing the individual components.

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

Procedure Code Modifier -Worksheet Data Elements

Inclusion of a code on any of these lists does not imply reimbursement. Eligibility, Benefits, Limitations, Exclusions, Precert/Referral Requirements, Provider Contracts and Policy still apply.

Data Elements	Value
Modifier Code	51
Modifier Narrative	Multiple procedures
Applicable Procedure Code(s)	Procedure Codes 00100-01999, 10021-69990, 70010-79999, 90281-99600
Not Applicable Procedure Code(s)	Modifier 51 exempt (Procedure Codes listing attached), E/Ms (92002-92014, 99201-99499, G0101, G0175), Add on codes (Procedure Codes listing attached)