

Reimbursement Policy		
<b>Subject: Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement</b>		
Effective Date: <b>10/03/16</b> <del>08/30/19</del>	Committee Approval Obtained: <b>10/03/16</b> <del>12/21/18</del>	Section: <b>Coding</b>
*****The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <a href="https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com">https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com</a> .*****		
<p>These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Healthy Blue if the service is covered by a member's Healthy Louisiana benefit plan. The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence. You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with CPT<sup>®</sup> codes, HCPCS codes and/or revenue codes. The codes denote the services and/or procedures performed. The billed code(s) are required to be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.</p> <p>If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Healthy Blue may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reject or deny the claim.</li> <li>• Recover and/or recoup claim payment.</li> </ul> <p>Healthy Blue reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Healthy Blue strives to minimize these variations.</p> <p>Healthy Blue reserves the right to review and revise our policies periodically when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to this site.</p>		
<b>Policy</b>	<p>Healthy Blue allows reimbursement to professional providers and facilities for multiple and bilateral surgery unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise. Reimbursement is based on multiple and bilateral procedure rules in accordance with contracts and/or state guidelines for applicable surgical procedures performed <del>at on</del> the same <del>session</del><u>day</u> by the same provider <del>to the same patient</del>.</p>	

<https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BLA-RP-0034-17 August 20170150-19 [rdate]

### **Multiple Surgery**

Professional provider claims for applicable surgical procedures must be billed with Modifier 51 to denote a multiple procedure. Facility claims should not be billed with Modifier 51.

The following reimbursements apply to professional claims:

- 100% of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the highest valued procedure
- 50% for the secondary through fifth procedures
- 50% for the sixth and additional procedures only if determined to be medically necessary through clinical review

A single surgery procedure is subject to a multiple procedure reduction when submitted with multiple units.

~~The Facility claims should not be billed with Modifier 51. However, the~~ following reimbursements apply to facility claims:

- 100% of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the highest valued procedure
- 0% for the secondary ~~through fifth~~ and additional procedures  
0% for the sixth and additional procedures

Healthy Blue does not apply multiple procedure reduction reimbursement to Modifier 51-exempt (also known as MS-exempt) or add-on procedure codes since the fee allowance and/or Relative Value is already reduced for the procedure itself.

•

### **Bilateral Surgery**

Healthy Blue will not allow reimbursement of bilateral procedures when billed by a hospital. Professional provider claims with applicable surgical procedures must be billed with Modifier 50 to denote a bilateral procedure. It is inappropriate to use Modifier LT or RT to identify bilateral procedures. Reimbursement is 150% of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate of the procedure.

For procedure codes containing “bilateral” or “unilateral or bilateral” in their description, no modifier is used, and reimbursement is based on 100% of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the procedure.

Claims with applicable surgical procedures billed without the correct modifier to denote a multiple or bilateral procedure may be denied. In the instance when more than one bilateral procedure or multiple and

	<p>bilateral procedures are performed during the same operative session, multiple procedure reductions apply.</p>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Biennial review approved 12/21/18: Policy template updated</u></li> <li>• <u>Review approved 02/23/18 and effective 08/30/19: Same day language added; same session language removed; multiple units policy language added</u></li> <li>• Effective 09/01/17: Policy template updated</li> <li>• Biennial review approved and effective 10/03/16: <del>Policy</del>“<u>Unilateral or bilateral</u>” language <del>updated</del><u>corrected; language for multiple bilateral procedures reimbursement standardized</u></li> <li>• Biennial review approved 05/12/14: <del>Policy</del><u>Hospital bilateral procedure reimbursement language added; policy template updated</u></li> <li>• <u>Review approved 03/26/13: Multiple bilateral procedure reimbursement language updated</u></li> <li>• Review approved and effective 11/05/12: <del>Policy</del><u>Multiple bilateral procedure language added; policy template updated</u></li> <li>• Biennial review approved and effective 07/16/12: Policy template updated</li> <li>• <del>Initial review approved and effective 08/16/10</del><u>Review approved and effective 08/16/10: Policy adapted from Multiple and Bilateral Surgery Reimbursement — Facility, #07-035, approved 09/10/07 and Multiple and Bilateral Surgery Reimbursement — Professional Providers, #06-010, approved 04/19/06; Modifier use and reimbursement reductions for facility claims clarified; reference material updated to indicate 2010 edition</u></li> </ul>
<b>References and Research Materials</b>	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS</li> <li>• State Medicaid</li> <li>• State contracts</li> <li>• <del>National Uniform Billing Committee Guidelines</del></li> <li>• <del>Optum Learning: Understanding Modifiers, 2016 Edition</del></li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Modifier 50:</b> bilateral procedures performed on identical sides of the body on the same day during the same operative session</li> <li>• <b>Modifier 51:</b> multiple procedures, other Evaluation and Management, physical medicine, and rehabilitation services performed by the same physician on the same day during the same operative session</li> <li>• <b>General Reimbursement Policy Definitions</b></li> </ul>
<b>Related Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant at Surgery (Modifiers 80/81/82/AS)</li> <li>• Modifiers LT and RT: Left Side/Right Side Procedures</li> <li>• Modifier Usage</li> <li>• <del>Multiple Delivery Services</del></li> <li>• <del>Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction</del></li> </ul>

<b>Related Materials</b>	• None
--------------------------	--------