Assistant Surgeon

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0004.2100

Recent review date: 06/2023

Next review date: 10/2025

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including but not limited to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and the International Classification of Diseases,10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM). Other factors that may affect payment include but are not limited to medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other policies. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all healthcare services billed on CMS-1500 forms or its electronic equivalent and, when specified, billed on UB-04 forms or its electronic equivalent.

Policy Overview

This Assistant Surgeon policy identifies procedures that are eligible for reimbursement as Assistant Surgeon services, as identified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

Exceptions

Non-physician providers should report assistant surgery services with the AS Modifier. Modifier 80 is not eligible for reimbursement when billed by non-physician assistants at surgery.

When an Assistant Surgeon submits multiple procedure codes to which multiple procedure reduction applies, reductions will apply.

Reimbursement Guidelines

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana utilizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File (NPFS) payment policy indicators.

All codes in the NPFS with the payment indicator of "2" for "Assistant Surgeon" are considered reimbursable for assistant surgeon services as indicated by assistant surgeon modifiers 80 or AS.

Assistant surgeons submit procedure code(s) with an appropriate modifier appended (80 or AS) to represent their services. Only one assistant surgeon will be reimbursed for each eligible procedure.
Procedure code(s) must be identical to those billed by the primary surgeon, with the addition of the Assistant Surgeon modifier 80 or AS.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will reimburse Assistant at Surgery procedures according to applicable State Fee Schedule(s) and the provider's contract.

If services are billed/coded inappropriately, Amerihealth Caritas Louisiana may:
- Reject or deny the claim
- Recoup claim payment

Definitions

Modifier 80 - Assistant Surgeon
Surgical assistant services may be identified by adding modifier 80 to the usual procedure code(s). Modifier 80 is appended to the same service as the primary surgeon and designates the surgeon as the surgical assistant on the service.

Modifier AS – Non-physician Assistant at Surgery
HCPCS Level II modifier, AS, is used to report non-physician providers (NPP) or advance practice providers (APP) who assist in surgery. This includes a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist for assistant at surgery.

Edit Sources

I. *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT®), *Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System* (HCPCS), *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems* (ICD), and associated publications and services.
II. https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Relative-Value-Files
III. Applicable Louisiana Department of Health (DHS) Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

| 08/25/2023 | Removal of Policy Implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas from Policy History section |
| 06/13/2023 | Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval |

01/10/2023	Template Revised
	Revised preamble
	Removal of Applicable Claim Types table
	Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines
	Added Associated Policies section
	Precedes Act 319