

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare

To: Adult Mental Health Day Treatment Providers, Ambulance Providers, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Anesthesiologists, Anesthesiologist Assistants, Audiologists, Case Management Providers, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Chiropractors, Community Care Organizations, Community Support Programs, Comprehensive Community Service Providers, Community Recovery Services Providers, Crisis Intervention Providers, Dentists, Family Planning Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, HealthCheck Providers, HealthCheck "Other Services" Providers, Hearing Instrument Specialists, In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers, Independent Labs, Individual Medical Supply Providers, Master's Level Psychotherapists, Medical Equipment Vendors, Narcotic Treatment Services Providers, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Homes, Occupational Therapists, Opticians, Optometrists, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinics, Pharmacies, Physical Therapists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Podiatrists, Portable X-ray Providers, Prenatal Care Coordination Providers, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Rehabilitation Agencies, Rural Health Clinics, School-Based Services Providers, Specialized Medical Vehicle Providers, Speech and Hearing Clinics, Speech-Language Pathologists, Substance Abuse Counselors, Substance Abuse Day Treatment Providers, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

How to Correctly Indicate Modifiers on Claims for Repeat or Separately Identifiable Procedures

ForwardHealth identifies duplicate procedures during claims processing; therefore, correct placement of modifiers used to indicate repeat or separately identifiable procedures on the same date of service is necessary for correct claims processing. This *ForwardHealth Update* identifies *Current Procedural Terminology* modifiers used to indicate repeat and separately identifiable procedures and provides information on where to include these modifiers on claims.

ForwardHealth identifies duplicate procedures during claims processing; therefore, correct placement of modifiers used to indicate repeat or separately identifiable procedures on the same date of service (DOS) is necessary for correct claims processing. Providers are reminded that they should indicate the most appropriate modifier for the procedure performed.

How to Indicate Repeat Procedure Modifiers on Claims

Repeat procedures or services provided by the same or another physician may be indicated on one claim or on separate claims. In both situations, the procedure code for the initial procedure should be entered in Element 24D (Procedures, Services, or Supplies) on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form or in Loop 2400, segment SV101, of the 837 Health Care Claim: Professional (837P) electronic transaction. That same procedure code plus the modifier for the repeat procedure should be included on a subsequent line, with the modifier placed in the "Modifiers" column of Element 24D.

Following are *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) modifiers that can be used to indicate repeat procedures on the same DOS:

- 76 (Repeat procedure or service by same physician).
- 77 (Repeat procedure or service by another physician).

How to Indicate Separately Identifiable Procedure Modifiers on Claims

Separately identifiable procedures or services provided by the same or another physician may be indicated on one claim or on separate claims. In both situations, the procedure code should be entered in Element 24D (Procedures, Services, or Supplies) on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form or in Loop 2400, segment SV101, of the 837P electronic transaction, with the associated modifier placed in the "Modifiers" column of Element 24D.

Following are CPT modifiers that can be used to indicate separately identifiable procedures on the same DOS:

- 24 (Unrelated evaluation and management service by the same physician during a post-operative period).
- 25 (Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service).
- 62 (Two surgeons). This modifier should be indicated when two surgeons work together as primary surgeons performing distinct parts of a procedure, each surgeon should report his or her distinct operative work by adding modifier "62" to the procedure code and any associated add-on code(s) for that procedure as long as both surgeons continue to work together as primary surgeons. Each surgeon should report the co-surgery once using the same procedure code. If additional procedures (including add-on procedures) are performed during the same surgical session, separate codes may also be reported with modifier "62" added.

When submitting claims for services provided by two surgeons (either on the same claim or on separate claims), modifier "62" should be entered next to the associated procedure code.

Note: If a co-surgeon acts as an assistant in the performance of additional procedure(s) during the same surgical session, those services may be reported using separate procedure code(s) with modifier "80" or modifier "82" added, as appropriate. Refer to the Physician service area of the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal for more information about co-surgeon/assistant surgeon modifiers and policies.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Managed care organizations are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

P-1250