

Repeat Procedure Modifiers 76 and 77

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0119.SCEX

Recent review date: 04/2025

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First Choice Next 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. First Choice Next 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 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Policy Overview

This policy describes requirements for billing for repeat procedures modifiers 76 and 77 when preformed on the same date of service.

First Choice Next recognizes modifiers 76 and 77 for repeat procedures on the same date of service consistent with CPT/HCPCS terminology.

Exceptions

Repeat Modifiers 76 and 77 should not be used for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Modifiers 76 and 77 indicate that a service or procedure was repeated on the same day by the same practitioner (modifier 76) or by a different practitioner (modifier 77).

If multiple and/or identical services are provided to the same member, on the same date of service, a repeat modifier would be needed. If clinically appropriate, modifier 76 would be used for repeat procedures performed by the same provider* to indicate that the service was repeated. If the same procedure was performed by a different provider, then use of modifier 77 would indicate that the service was repeated by a different provider.

Modifier 76 and 77 should be appended to the professional component only see reimbursement policy RPC.0048.SCEX. It may also be appropriate to include anatomical modifiers (RT, LT, etc.) depending on where the procedure was performed.

Examples of appropriate use of modifiers 76 & 77

Modifier 76-repeat by same provider*

A member has two chest x-rays done on the same day, with each interpretation being made by the same provider*. The second interpretation would be appended with the 76 modifier.

Modifier 77-repeat by different provider*

If a member has two EKG's done on the same date of service and the first EKG is performed at 10am is interpreted by provider A with (specialty XX). Then a second EKG is taken at 2pm and is interpreted by a provider B with (specialty YY). The EKG interpretation performed at 2pm would be appended with the 77 modifier.

Multiple Interpretations on the Same X-ray

When a second interpretation by a different provider* is needed for the same film, the second interpretation must be submitted with a 77 modifier. The claim must provide documentation on why a second interpretation is medically reasonable and necessary.

A member is seen in the ED (Emergency Department) and the ED physician orders a single view chest x-ray. The ED physician reviews the x-ray, treats the member for suspected pneumonia, and discharges the member. While in the ED and prior to discharge, the radiology physician's interpretation of the x-ray indicates the member did not have pneumonia; however, there was a suspicious area of the lung suggesting a tumor that required further testing including chest x-rays.

*CMS defines physicians of the same group practice and same specialty as the same physician and requires that they bill as though they were a single physician.

Definitions

Modifier 76 - Repeat Procedure, Same Provider

Modifier 76 is used for a repeat procedure or service by the same provider or other qualified health professional on the same date of service.

Modifier 77 – Repeat Procedure, Different Provider

Modifier 77 is used for a repeat procedure or service by a different provider or other qualified health professional on the same date of service.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=53482#:~:text=CPT%20Modifier%2076%3A%20'Repeat%20procedure,duplicate%20services%20and%20repeated%20services.>
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- VI. Applicable First Choice Next
- VII. Medicare Fee Schedule(s).
- VIII. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c13.pdf>.
- IX. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf>.

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

RPC.0048.SCEX Professional/Technical components (Modifiers 26, TC)

Policy History

06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2025	Revised preamble
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by First Choice Next from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised • Revised preamble • Removal of Applicable Claim Types table • Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines • Added Associated Policies section