

This is an update about information in the provider manual. For access to the latest provider manual, go online to <https://providers.amerigroup.com>.

## **Adding modifier 52 to the routine anatomic evaluation billing code**

**Summary of change:** In our efforts to improve pregnancy outcomes, including the prevention of preterm birth, Amerigroup Community Care previously communicated with you our endorsement of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) guidelines on cervical length (CL) screening and progesterone treatment.

We continue to encourage you to obtain a CL measurement with your patient's prenatal routine anatomic evaluation ultrasound. For claims submitted on or after June 10, 2017, if a vaginal approach is necessary in addition to an abdominal scan to obtain this measurement, it will be required to append modifier 52 to the transvaginal ultrasound.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

Modifier 52:

- Indicates procedures for which services performed are less than usually required.
- Reduces reimbursement to the lower of billed charges or 50 percent of the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate.

### **What is the impact of this change?**

When a routine anatomic evaluation ultrasound (76801, 76802, 76805, 76810) and a transvaginal ultrasound (76817) are billed on the same day by the same provider, the transvaginal ultrasound is considered a reduced service and must be appended with modifier 52 to ensure appropriate reimbursement.

The incomplete procedure will be paid at 50 percent of the applicable fee schedule, and the complete procedure will be paid at the full applicable fee schedule.

When two prenatal ultrasound procedures are billed on the same day by the same provider and neither billing CPT code is appended by modifier 52, one of the ultrasound procedures will be denied for incorrect coding.

Should your claim be denied, providers may resubmit the claim with the appropriate modifier or appeal.

### **What if I need assistance?**

If you have questions about this communication, received this fax in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services toll free at 1-800-454-3730.

Thank you for being a valued partner.