



## Reimbursement Policy

**Subject: Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement**

Effective Date: <b>03/01/20</b>	Committee Approval Obtained: <b>12/21/18</b>	Section: <b>Coding</b>
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\*\*\*\*\*The most current version of the 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 <https://providers.amerigroup.com>. Under Quick Tools, select Reimbursement Policies > Medicare. \*\*\*\*\*

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member’s Amerigroup Medicare Advantage 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® 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 participating providers and facilities; a non-contracting provider who accepts Medicare assignment will be reimbursed for services according to the original Medicare reimbursement rates.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Amerigroup Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.

Amerigroup Medicare Advantage 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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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, Amerigroup Medicare Advantage strives to minimize these variations.

Amerigroup Medicare Advantage 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.

<b>Policy</b>	Amerigroup Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement to professional providers and facilities for multiple and bilateral surgery unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements
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	<p>indicate otherwise. Reimbursement is based on multiple and bilateral procedure rules in accordance with contracts and/or state guidelines for applicable surgical procedures performed on the same day by the same provider to the same patient.</p> <p><b>Multiple Surgery</b> 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. However, the following reductions apply to both physician and facility claims. Reimbursement is the total of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the highest valued procedure.</li> <li>• 50 percent for the secondary through fifth procedures.</li> <li>• 50 percent for the sixth and additional procedures, only if determined to be medically necessary through clinical review.</li> </ul> <p>Amerigroup Medicare Advantage 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.</p> <p>A single surgery procedure is subject to a multiple procedure reduction when submitted with multiple units.</p> <p><b>Bilateral Surgery</b> Professional provider and facility 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 percent of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate of the procedure.</p> <p>For procedure codes containing <i>bilateral</i> or <i>unilateral</i> or <i>bilateral</i> in their description, no modifier is used and reimbursement is based on 100 percent of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the procedure.</p> <p>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 bilateral procedures are performed during the same operative session, multiple procedure reductions apply.</p>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biennial review approved <b>12/21/18</b> Policy template updated</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review approved <b>02/23/18</b> and effective <b>03/01/20</b>: Same day language added; same session language removed; multiple units policy language added</li> <li>• Biennial review approved and effective <b>10/03/16</b>: “Unilateral or bilateral” language corrected; endoscopy language removed</li> <li>• Initial approval and effective date <b>01/01/15</b></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 contract</li> <li>• National Uniform Billing Committee Guidelines</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>• Multiple Deliver Services</li> </ul>
<b>Related Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>