

		Reimbursement Policy
Subject: Modifiers LT and RT: Left-Side/Right-Side Procedures		
Effective Date: 10/01/17	Committee Approval Obtained: 08/14/17	Section: Coding
<p>***** The most current version of our 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/DC. *****</p> <p>These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Amerigroup District of Columbia, Inc. if the service is covered by a member's Amerigroup 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 District 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 both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.</p> <p>If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Amerigroup may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reject or deny the claim. • Recover and/or recoup claim payment. <p>Amerigroup reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, District, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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 strives to minimize these variations.</p> <p>Amerigroup 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.</p>		
Policy	<p>Amerigroup allows reimbursement for procedure codes appended with Modifier LT and/or RT when indicating the side of the body for which the item, supply or procedure will be used unless provider, District, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Reimbursement is based on 100 percent of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate of the procedure. Modifiers LT and RT are informational modifiers and, therefore, do not increase or decrease reimbursement of the procedure.</p>	

	<p>It is inappropriate to use ModifierLT or ModifierRT when billing for bilateral procedures or with procedure codes containing “bilateral” or “unilateral or bilateral” in their description. Modifiers LT and RT do not indicate a bilateral service. Claims submitted with ModifierLT and RT appropriately indicating a surgical procedure was performed on both the left side and right side of the body are subject to multiple surgery rules.</p>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial review approved 08/14/17: Policy template updated • Initial review approved 07/19/17 and effective 10/01/17
References and Research Materials	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • DC Department of Health Care Finance policies • Amerigroup contract with the DC Department of Health Care Finance • Optum 360, 2017 Edition
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier 78: used to indicate that a subsequent procedure was performed during the postoperative period of the original surgical procedure; the subsequent procedure must be related to the original procedure and must require a return trip to the operating or procedure room • General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier Usage • Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement
Related Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None