



# Co-Surgeon

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0005.2100

Recent review date: 06/2023

Next review date: 11/2025

*AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana 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. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana 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 but not limited to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM). Other factors that may affect payment include but are not limited to medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other policies. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all healthcare services billed on CMS-1500 forms or its electronic equivalent and, when specified, billed on UB-04 forms or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

This Co-Surgeon policy identifies the guidelines for reimbursement of Co-Surgeon services, as identified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS), and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Medicaid program.

## Exceptions

Reimbursement for Co-Surgery services furnished by a non-physician practitioner (NPP) is not available from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana. The CMS claims processing manual guidelines for Co-Surgery refers to surgical procedures involving two (2) different surgeons, usually of different specialties.

## Reimbursement Guidelines

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will follow CPT® and State guidelines for Co-Surgery reimbursement. Modifier 62 identifies a Co-Surgeon involved in the care of a patient performing distinct parts of a procedure. To qualify for reimbursement, each Co-Surgeon must submit the same Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code with modifier 62, for the same date of service. For services included on the CMS NPFS Co-Surgeon Eligible List,

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will reimburse Co-Surgeon services per applicable LDH Medicaid fee schedule(s) subject to additional multiple-procedure reductions, if applicable.

All codes in the CMS NPFS with status code indicators "1" or "2" for "Co-Surgeons" are considered by AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana to be eligible for Co-Surgeon reimbursement if billed with the Co-Surgeon modifier 62. For each Co-Surgeon to be reimbursed for the procedure, each Co-Surgeon must report the same CPT® code(s) with modifier 62 on procedures that required the skill of two (2) surgeons.

Multiple procedure reductions apply to Co-Surgeon claim submissions when one (1) or more physicians are billing multiple CPT® codes that are eligible for reductions.

## Definitions

### Modifier 62 – Two Surgeons or Co-surgeons

Two surgeons of the same or different specialties who work together as Primary Surgeons performing distinct parts of a surgical procedure.

### Multiple Procedure Reduction

Multiple procedures performed by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same date of service during the same patient encounter may be subject to multiple procedure reduction for secondary and subsequent procedures.

### Nonphysician practitioner (NPP)

A healthcare provider who is not a physician but who practices in collaboration with or under the supervision of a physician. Nonphysician practitioners may also be known as mid-level practitioners or physician extenders (e.g., Physician Assistants (PA), Nurse Practitioners (NP), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)).

## Edit Sources

- I. *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT®) and associated publications and services.
- II. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Relative-Value-Files>
- III. Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

## Attachments

N/A

## Associated Policies

N/A

## Policy History

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|------------|--|
| 08/25/2023 | Removal of Policy Implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas from Policy History section |
| 06/13/2023 | Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval  |
| 01/10/2023 | Template Revised<br>Revised preamble   |

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|  | Removal of Applicable Claim Types table<br>Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines<br>Added Associated Policies section |
|  | Precedes Act 319   |