
-51 Multiple Procedure Modifier

Last Reviewed: 11/3/2021

When multiple procedures are performed during the same session, by the same provider, services other than the primary procedure are identified by appending the -51 Multiple Procedure Modifier.

Product Information

The information outlined below applies to all UCare's products.

Payment Information

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Multiple Procedure Indicators (MULT PROC) are found in the CMS National [CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File \(MPFSRVF\)](#). Surgical procedures with a (MULT PROC) Indicator of 2 will have the multiple surgical reduction applied to payment. In addition, UCare will apply multiple payment guidelines to endoscopic services with an Indicator of 3.
- Surgeries subject to multiple surgical reductions are ranked in descending (highest to least expensive) order based on the fee schedule allowed amount. The -51 modifier may be appended to a procedure, but UCare will calculate payment of eligible services based on the following guidelines:
 - Payment for each eligible procedure is based on the lesser of charge, or;
 - 100% of the base fee schedule amount for the highest valued procedure; and
 - 50% of the base fee schedule amount for the remaining eligible procedures.

Appropriate Use

- The -51 modifier should be appended when multiple procedures with a MULT SURG Indicator of 2 or 3 are performed during the same session.

Inappropriate Use

- The -51 Multiple Procedure modifier should not be appended to:
 - Services that are exempt from multiple procedure payment reduction.
 - Appendix "D" of the CPT[®] book lists add-on codes that do not require a -51 modifier and are not subject to the multiple procedure reduction.
 - Appendix "E" of the CPT[®] book lists codes that are exempt from use of the -51 modifier and are not subject to the multiple procedure reduction.
 - Appending the -51 Multiple Procedure modifier to Evaluation and Management services or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services.

Additional Links

Disclaimer

The disclaimer published on the modifier table applies to the modifier table and all of UCare's published attachments including this document.