

---

---

## -54 Surgical Care Only Modifier

Last Reviewed: 11/3/2021

Surgical services include pre-operative, intraoperative, and postoperative care. When a physician or other qualified health care professional appends the -54 modifier to a surgical procedure it indicates that they performed the surgical procedure, and are relinquishing all or part of the postoperative care to another provider.

When different providers in a group practice participate in the care of the patient, the global surgical package should be billed. The physician who performs the surgery should be listed as the performing physician.

### Product Information

The information outlined below applies to all of UCare's products. There is a difference in the payment methodology for Medicare and UCare's Choices vs. MHCP products. Product specific information is outlined below.

### Payment Information

[UCare Medicare Advantage, Dual Eligible State Public Programs when Medicare is the Primary Payer and UCare Commercial Products](#)

- All of the Plans under UCare's Medicare and Commercial products follow Medicare guidelines.
- Payment for eligible services will be based on the combined value of the pre- and inter-operative percentages as defined by Medicare. Detailed information is available in the Medicare Carriers Manual (See link below).

[MHCP \(When MHCP is the primary payer for the service\)](#)

- Payment for eligible professional services is 80% of the UCare base allowed amount.

### Appropriate Use

- The surgeon performs only the surgical procedure and pre-operative care, and the remainder of care is being relinquished to another provider.
- The -54 modifier should be appended to surgical procedure codes only.
- The surgery performed has a 90 or 10 day global period.

### Inappropriate Use

- The -54 modifier is appended to any service other than a surgical procedure with a global period of 90 or 10 days.
- Care during the global period was furnished by multiple providers in the same group practice.

### Additional Links

[CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File \(MPFSRVF\)](#)

**Disclaimer**

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