

-55 Post-Operative Management 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 -55 modifier to a surgical procedure it indicates only the post-operative services associated with the global surgical package was performed by the physician or other qualified health care professional. The remainder of the care was relinquished to another provider(s).

When different providers in a group practice participate in the care of the patient the global 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 UCare products. There is a difference in the payment methodology for Medicare vs. MHCP/Medicaid products. Product specific payment information is outlined in the Payment Information section of this Policy.

Payment Information

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

- All UCare Medicare and Commercial products follow Medicare guidelines.
- Payment for eligible services will be based on the post-operative percentage 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 20% of the UCare base allowed amount.

Appropriate Use

- A provider performs the postoperative care associated with a surgical procedure.
- The -55 modifier should be appended to surgical procedure codes only.
- The surgery performed has a 90 or 10 day global period.

Inappropriate Use

- The -55 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 \(MPFSRVF\)](#)

[Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12, Section 40.4 Adjudication of Claims for Global Surgeries](#)

Disclaimer

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