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Provider Notification Update

Date of Notification	6/1/09
Plans Affected	All Lines of Business
Subject	Modifier Clarification

Mercy Care Plan would like clarify appropriate coding of modifiers that have caused confusion in the past for some of our providers regarding surgical procedure coding and the global period for surgery. All information comes directly from CMS – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We are also including the link where this information can be found on the CMS website for your convenience.

Modifier 24 - Appended to an office visit when a patient is seen during a post-operative global period for an unrelated visit. If a provider states the office visit is unrelated to a surgery and should be payable, then you need to verify 1) The office visit falls within the global period of the surgery 2) The visit is unrelated 3) Service must have modifier -24 to denote an unrelated visit.

Modifier 25 - Appended to an office visit when a patient is seen on the same day as a global procedure. This should denote a visit that does is greater than routine pre-post op work and always on the same day as the procedure. 1)Office visit is on the same day as a procedure 2) Service must be billed with -25 to note visit is more than pre-post op work.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R954CP.pdf> - Pages 7,8.

Modifier 59 - Apply this Modifier to lines to show a separately billable procedure. Usually used to override CCI bundling. If the code combination has a modifier action of 0, than the combination is never separately billable. If the code combination has a modifier action of 1, then the -59 will override the bundling and the service is payable.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0715.pdf>

Modifier 79 - Apply this Modifier to a surgical procedure during a Global period that is not related to the original surgical procedure. 1) Does procedure fall within a global period of another procedure. 2) If yes, must have -79 modifier to show as separate to receive payment.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R442OTN.pdf>