



Qualified Health Plans offered in North Carolina by CareSource North Carolina Co., d/b/a CareSource

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT	
North Carolina Marketplace	
Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Modifiers-NC MP-PY-1404	01/01/2024
Policy Type	
REIMBURSEMENT	

Reimbursement Policies prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry-standard claims editing logic, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing Reimbursement Policies.

In addition to this Policy, Reimbursement of services is subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization, notification and utilization management guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any federal or state coverage mandate, Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

This Policy does not ensure an authorization or Reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced herein. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

CareSource and its affiliates may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this Policy to services provided in a particular case and may modify this Policy at any time.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

Table of Contents

A. Subject	2
B. Background	2
C. Definitions	2
D. Policy	3
E. Conditions of coverage	3
F. Related policies/rules	3
G. Review/revision history	3
H. References	4

A. Subject Modifiers

B. Background

Reimbursement policies are designed to assist providers when submitting claims to CareSource. They are routinely updated to promote accurate coding and provide policy clarification. These proprietary policies are not a guarantee of payment. Reimbursement for claims may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications. Reimbursement will be established based upon a review of the actual services provided to a member and will be determined when the claim is received for processing. Health care providers and their office staff are encouraged to use self-service channels to verify a member's eligibility.

Reimbursement modifiers are two-digit codes that provide a way for physicians and other qualified health care professionals to indicate that a service or procedure has been altered by some specific circumstance. Modifiers can be found in the appendices of both CPT and HCPCS manuals. Use of a modifier does not change the code or the code's definition. Examples of modifiers use includes:

- To differentiate between the surgeon, assistant surgeon, and facility fee claims for the same procedure.
- To indicate that a procedure was performed on the left side, right side, or bilaterally.
- To report multiple procedures performed during the same session by the same health care provider.
- To indicate multiple health care professionals participated in the procedure.
- To indicate a subsequent procedure is due to a complication of the initial procedure.

Although CareSource accepts the use of modifiers, their use does not guarantee reimbursement. Some modifiers increase or decrease the reimbursement rate, while others do not affect the reimbursement rate. CareSource may verify the use of any modifier through post-payment audit. Using a modifier inappropriately can result in the denial of a claim or an incorrect reimbursement for a product or service. All information regarding the use of these modifiers must be made available upon CareSource's request.

C. Definitions

- **Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)** - Codes that are issued, updated, and maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA) that provide a standard language for coding and billing medical services and procedures.
- **Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)** - Codes that are issued, updated, and maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA) that provides a standard language for coding and billing of products, supplies, and services not included in the CPT codes.
- **Modifier** - Two-character codes used along with a CPT or HCPCS code to provide additional information about the service or procedure rendered.

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

D. Policy

It is the responsibility of the submitting provider to submit accurate documentation of services performed. Providers are expected to use the most accurate and appropriate CPT/HCPCS code(s) for the product or service that is being provided according to the following industry standard guidelines (may not be all-inclusive):

- National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) editing guidelines
- American Medical Association (AMA) guidelines
- American Hospital Association (AHA) billing rules
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
- ICD-10 CM and PCS
- National Drug Codes (NDC)
- Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) guidelines
- CCI table edits.

The inclusion of a code in a policy does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

E. Conditions of coverage

Reimbursement is dependent upon, but not limited to, submitting approved HCPCS and CPT codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable. In the absence of State specific instructions, the CMS guidelines will apply. Please refer to the individual fee schedule for appropriate codes.

Providers must follow proper billing, industry standards, and state compliant codes on all claim submissions. The use of modifiers must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.

In the event of any conflict between this policy and a provider’s contract with CareSource, the provider’s contract will be the governing document.

F. Related policies/rules

NA

G. Review/revision history

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	09/01/2019	New policy
Date Revised	04/15/2020	Added Place of Service 19 to Modifier SA
	10/13/2021	Removed modifiers, changed background and policy sections to simplify language
	10/12/2022	No changes. Updated references.
	09/27/2023	Updated references. Approved at Committee.
Date Effective	01/01/2024	
Date Archived		

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

H. References

1. *Billing 340B Modifiers Under the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)*. US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. March 3, 2023. Accessed September 11, 2023. www.cms.gov
2. CPT® overview and code approval. American Medical Association. Accessed September 11, 2023. www.ama-assn.org
3. *Medicare Claims Processing Manual, XII: Physicians/Nonphysician Practitioners*. US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; 2003. Revised February 9, 2023. Accessed September 11, 2023. www.cms.gov
4. *Medicare Claims Processing Manual, XIV: Ambulatory Surgical Centers*. US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; 2003. Revised March 24, 2023. Accessed September 11, 2023. www.cms.gov
5. Optum Encoder Pro. 2023. Accessed September 11, 2023. www.encoderprofp.com

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