
-78 Unplanned Return to the Operating/Procedure Room by the Same Physician Following the Initial Procedure for a Related Procedure During the Postoperative Period

Last Reviewed: 2/17/2025

Used to indicate that a related procedure was performed during the postoperative period of the initial procedure (unplanned procedure following initial procedure).

Product Information

The information outlined below applies to Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage products.

Payment Information

- The allowed amount is based on the intra-operative percentage listed in the "INTRA OP" field of the CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File (MPFSRVF) for services with a 90- or 10-day global period.
- A new postoperative period **does not** begin when using the -78 modifier.

Appropriate Use

- The -78 modifier describes a related, yet unplanned return to the operating room or procedure room during the global period of the initial procedure by the same physician.
- The -78 modifier is only valid when billed with surgical codes and the procedure is performed within the global period of the initial procedure.

Inappropriate Use

- When the surgery performed is unrelated to the initial procedure.

Additional Links

[Medicare Claims Processing Manual \(cms.gov\) Chapter 12, Section 40.2](#)

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

[Modifiers - NGSMEICARE](#)

Disclaimer

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

CPT[®] is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association