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

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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 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](#)

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