
-54 Surgical Care Only Modifier

Last Reviewed: 3/22/2024

Surgical services include pre-operative, intraoperative, and postoperative care. When a physician or other qualified health care professional appends the -54 modifier to a surgical procedure, it indicates that they performed the surgical procedure and are relinquishing all or part of the postoperative care to another provider.

When different providers in a group practice participate in the care of the patient, the global surgical 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's products. Product specific payment information is outlined below.

Payment Information

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

- All the Plans under UCare's Medicare and Commercial products follow Medicare guidelines.
- Payment for eligible services will be based on the combined value of the pre- and inter-operative percentages as defined by Medicare. Detailed information is available in the Medicare Claims Manual (See link below).

[MHCP \(When MHCP is the primary payer for the service\)](#)

- Payment for eligible professional services is 80% of the UCare base allowed amount.

Appropriate Use

- The surgeon performs only the surgical procedure and pre-operative care, and the remainder of care is being relinquished to a provider from another group practice.
- The -54 modifier should be appended to surgical procedure codes only.
- The surgery performed has a 90 or 10 day global period.

Inappropriate Use

- The -54 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

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