



## **Decision for Surgery Coding Policy**

### **CPT Modifier 57 – Decision for Surgery Overview**

According to CMS, the surgical package includes pre-operative visits after the decision is made to operate. Thus, to ensure payment, providers must differentiate between the E&M billed for a decision for surgery (which is payable) and an E&M billed for a pre-operative visit (which is included in the surgical package). This distinction is accomplished by using modifier 57.

- Major Surgery - Any procedure with a value of 090 (90 post-operative days) in the “Global Surgery” field of the CMS NPFS
- Minor Surgery - Any procedure with a value of 000 (0 post-operative days) or 010 (10 post-operative days) in the “Global Surgery” field of the CMS NPFS

### **Major Surgery**

When a decision for surgery is made the day before or day of a major surgery, the E&M billed for the decision for surgery must have modifier –57 appended.

### **Minor Surgery**

The decision to perform a minor procedure is typically done immediately before the service and is considered a routine preoperative service. A visit or consultation may not be billed in addition to the procedure.

### **Major and Minor Surgery at the same Episode**

When a decision for surgery is made the day before or day of a surgery that includes both major and minor procedures, the E&M billed for the decision for surgery must have modifier –57 appended to reflect the decision for the major surgery.

Both the medically necessary E&M service and the procedure must be appropriately and sufficiently documented by the physician or qualified non-physician practitioner in the patient’s medical record to support the claim for these services.

### **Sources**

#### **CMS**

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/GlobalSurgery-ICN907166.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf>

#### **CMS NPFS**

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Relative-Value-Files.html>