Payment Policy: Professional Component: Modifier -26

Reference Number: CC.PP.027
Product Types: All
Effective Date: 01/01/2013
Last Review Date: 02/23/2018

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Policy Overview
Certain procedure codes represent both the technical and professional component of a procedure or service.

CPT or HCPCS codes assigned a CMS PC/TC Indicator 1 are comprised of a Professional Component and a Technical Component which together constitute the Global Service. The Professional Component (PC), (supervision and interpretation) is reported with modifier 26, and the Technical Component (TC) is reported with modifier TC.

The term “professional/technical split” is used to reference a Global Service assigned a PC/TC Indicator 1 that may be “split” into a Professional and Technical Component. CPT or HCPCS codes assigned a PC/TC Indicator 1 are listed in the National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File. Each Global Service is listed on a separate row followed immediately by separate rows listing the corresponding Technical Component, and Professional Component.

According to CMS the professional component is defined as:

The PC of a service is for physician work interpreting a diagnostic test or performing a procedure, and includes indirect practice and malpractice expenses related to that work. Modifier 26 is used with the billing code to indicate that the PC is being billed.

CMS further defines the technical component as:

The TC is for all non-physician work, and includes administrative, personnel and capital (equipment and facility) costs, and related malpractice expenses. Modifier TC is used with the billing code to indicate that the TC is being billed.

Modifiers 26 and TC represent distinct components of a global procedure or service. When the physician’s services are reported separately, the service may be identified by appending modifier 26 to the usual procedure code. When the technical component is reported separately, modifier TC should be reported with the usual procedure code.

Although in rare cases, the physician/health care provider may own the equipment and consequently is responsible for the associated processes and expenses described above, the technical component of a procedure is typically considered an institutional charge.

That said, when a health care professional performs a procedure in an institutional setting that consists of both a technical and professional component, the provider should append only the professional component modifier (26).
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Application
This policy applies to:
- Professional Claims
- Place of Service 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 31, 34, 41, 42, 51, 52, 53, 56 and 61
- Current claim only

Policy Description

Reimbursement
The health plan’s code editing software logic will evaluate professional claims when billed without the modifier -26 in an institutional setting.

When this occurs, the software will deny the original service line and add a new line with the modifier -26 appended to the procedure code. The added service line is recommended for payment and is highlighted below in green.

Claim Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim Line</th>
<th>DOS</th>
<th>Proc Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Modl</th>
<th>Charge Amount</th>
<th>Allow</th>
<th>Deny</th>
<th>Pay</th>
<th>Ex Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>2/16/2016</td>
<td>93306</td>
<td>Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, complete, with spectral Doppler echocardiography, and with color flow Doppler echocardiography</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$412.00</td>
<td>$239.76</td>
<td>$239.76</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>xo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Added Line
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim Line</th>
<th>DOS</th>
<th>Proc Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Modl</th>
<th>Charge Amount</th>
<th>Allow</th>
<th>Deny</th>
<th>Pay</th>
<th>Ex Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>2/16/2016</td>
<td>93306</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$412.00</td>
<td>$62.34</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$62.34</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This edit does not change how a provider originally billed, but instead, as a service to the provider, adds a new service line with the correct, payable quantity. The original service line remains on the claim.

Coding and Modifier Information
This payment policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT® codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2017, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-
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inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this payment policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Professional Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>Technical Component</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS Publications and services

Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Claims Reimbursement Edit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/01/2016</td>
<td>removed “The original service line remains on the claim, unchanged to the extent that the…….” and replaced with “The original service line remains on the claim.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/23/2018</td>
<td>Converted to updated template, conducted review.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important Reminder
For the purposes of this payment policy, “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this payment policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any other of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this payment policy is to provide a guide to payment, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage and payment determinations and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage and payment determinations and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This payment policy is effective as of the date determined by Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this payment policy. This payment policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this payment policy and any applicable legal or
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regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this payment policy, and additional payment policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This payment policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This payment policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of Health Plan.

This payment policy is the property of Centene Corporation. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this payment policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this payment policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this payment policy.

Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs and LCDs should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this payment policy. Refer to the CMS website at http://www.cms.gov for additional information.

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