

August 20, 2019

AS/80 Modifier Correction Notice:

AHCCCS recently identified that billing policy documentation in the FFS Billing Manual was inconsistent with appropriate coding practice related to the use of the AS/80 modifier combination for PA, NP and CNS provider types.

Effective 9/1/2019 AHCCCS has updated the FFS Manual to correctly reflect only modifier AS as needed and appropriate for these provider types

With this correction, AHCCCS will not update any additional codes to include both modifiers for these provider types for dates of service on and after 9/1/2019.

UPDATED Language on billing for the AS modifier from the AHCCCS FFS Billing Manual is included below for your reference:

If multiple surgeons participate in a surgery, the appropriate modifier is necessary to ensure proper payment of claims.

80 Assistant Surgeon

81 Minimum Assistant Surgeon

82 Assistant Surgeon (when qualified resident surgeon not available)

62 Two Surgeons

66 Surgical Team

AS PA, NP, or CNS served as the assistant at surgery

If multiple providers bill for the same procedure without modifiers, all but the first claim received will be denied as duplicates.

Modifier 80 - Assistant surgeon services shall be identified by adding modifier 80 to the procedure. This modifier pertains to physician's services only. A physician's surgical assistant services may be identified by adding the modifier 80 to the usual procedure code. This modifier describes an assistant surgeon providing full assistance to the primary surgeon, and is not intended for use by non-physician providers.

Modifier 81 - Minimum assistant surgeon services shall be identified by adding modifier 81 to the procedure, and it is only submitted with surgical codes. It describes an assistant surgeon providing minimal assistance to the primary surgeon. This modifier pertains to physician's services only and is not intended for use by non-physician providers.

Modifier 82 - Assistant surgeon services, when a qualified resident surgeon is not available, shall be identified by adding modifier 82 to the procedure. This modifier applies to physician's services only. The unavailability of a qualified resident surgeon is a prerequisite for use of this modifier and the service must have been performed in a teaching facility. Documentation must include information relating to the unavailability of a qualified resident in this situation. Only teaching hospitals may submit this modifier. This modifier is not intended for use by non-physician providers.

Modifier AS - Use the modifier "AS" for assistant at surgery services, when services are provided by a Physician Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). The provider must accept assignment.

- NOTE: A Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) should not submit the "AS" modifier. This modifier is only valid for use by non-physician practitioners (NPP) when billing under their own provider number