

URMC Compliance Office
Guidance for Use of Modifier 62
Co-Surgery

Under some circumstances, the individual skills of two or more surgeons are required to perform surgery on the same patient during the same operative session. This may be required because of the complex nature of the procedure(s) and/or the patient's condition. In these cases, the additional surgeon is not acting as an assistant at surgery.

Guidelines

- When two surgeons (each in a different specialty) are required to perform a specific procedure, each surgeon bills for the procedure with modifier -62. e.g. thoracic surgeon providing retroperitoneal exposure for an anterior spinal fusion performed by an orthopaedic surgeon
- Co-surgery also refers to surgical procedures involving two surgeons performing the parts of the procedure simultaneously.
e.g. heart transplant
- Each co-surgeon should document the procedure he/she performed in an individual operative report and reference the co-surgery
- Each co-surgeon is reimbursed at 62.5% of the global surgery fee schedule amount
- Documentation of the medical necessity for two surgeons is required for certain services. Each surgery CPT-4 code has a modifier indicator which tells whether co-surgery can be billed and what, if any, documentation is required.
 - 0 Co-surgery can't be billed for this procedure
 - 1 Co-surgeons could be paid; supporting documentation required to establish medical necessity of two surgeons for the same procedure
 - 2 Co-surgeons permitted; no documentation required if two specialty requirement is met

Considerations

- Appropriate billing and timely reimbursement is dependent on the coordination of claim submission between each co-surgeon's billing staff. Attempt to submit both claims in the same time frame- ideally on the same day.
- If surgeons of different specialties each perform a distinct procedure (separate CPT-4 code), then the surgeons are not considered co-surgeons. Each surgeon would bill for the specific service he/she provided and documented. Each surgeon would get reimbursed at 100% of the global surgery fee schedule amount for the specific service he/she provided.
 - Do not confuse co-surgery with Assistant at Surgery (modifier -82)