



Split/Shared Visit - Modifier FS Guidelines

Split/Shared Visit Definition

CMS defines split/shared visits as an Evaluation & Management (E&M) visit in the **facility setting** that is performed by both a physician and APP who are in the **same group**, in accordance with applicable law and regulations such that the service could be billed by either the physician or APP if furnished independently by only one of them.

Payment will be made to the practitioner who performs the **substantive portion** of the visit.

Split/Shared Visit Guidelines:

- Applies to a physician working with an APP
- Physician and APP must be part of same billing group practice.

Examples:

- Thoracic Surgery employed physician and Thoracic Surgery employed APP **could bill** for a shared visit.
- Thoracic Surgery employed physician and Plastic Surgery employed APP could **not bill** for a shared visit.
- Medical Faculty Group employed physician and Hospital employed APP could **not bill** for a shared visit.
- Applies to **E&M services only. Does NOT apply to procedures.**
- Both the physician and APP must personally evaluate the patient on the **same day.**
- Physician must perform a **substantive portion of the encounter** in order to be the billing provider.
- **Documentation must identify both providers.**
- Billing provider must **sign and date note.**
- Combined physician and APP documentation determine the billable level of service.
- **FS modifier** required for split/shared visits. **Billing provider is required to add modifier to LOS code.**

Split/Shared Visit Place of Service:

- Applies to **facility settings only**
- "**Substantive portion**" of an E&M service is defined as:
 - Medical Decision Making

OR

- Majority of the total time
- Modifier FS is required for all split/shared visits.
- Critical Care can be split/shared billed.

What is a Substantive Portion:

For a physician to bill a split/share visit, the physician must perform a substantive portion of the encounter. Substantive portion has been defined as:

- Medical Decision Making

OR

- More than half of the total time of the visit
- Physician addendum to APP's note **must clearly describe that a substantive portion was performed** in order to bill under the physician's name at 100%.

Substantive Portion: Smartphrase

Smart phrase **.FS** is available in eRecord

- Should be used for all split/shared visit addendums
- Ensures that the beginning of the addendum is properly documented
- Billing provider must document details of the substantive portion he/she personally performed
 - e.g., Medical Decision Making; **at a minimum we recommend enough detail to support the diagnosis and treatment plan or other medical decision.**

FS visit billed based on **Medical Decision Making** for example:

- *"I personally performed a substantive portion of this visit working collaboratively with the APP. Details include..."*

FS visit billed based on **Time** - total time on calendar day example:

- *"I personally performed the majority of time (substantive portion) of this visit. Total time on the calendar day of the encounter (my personal time + independent time of APP) including pre and post visit work was ___minutes."*

FS Modifier

- Must be added to all split/shared visits
- Must be added by the billing provider
- Attached to the E&M code in the LOS section - modifier buttons are available and become active after you add the E&M code.