



REIMBURSEMENT

New “X” Modifiers and Impact to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Reimbursement Policies

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has created 4 new HCPCS Modifiers to selectively identify subsets of Modifier 59 (Distinct Procedural Services) for use effective 1/1/15. They are:

- **XE Separate Encounter:** A Service That Is Distinct Because It Occurred During A Separate Encounter
- **XP Separate Practitioner:** A Service That Is Distinct Because It Was Performed By A Different Practitioner
- **XS Separate Structure:** A Service That Is Distinct Because It Was Performed On A Separate Organ/Structure
- **XU Unusual Non-Overlapping Service:** The Use Of A Service That Is Distinct Because It Does Not Overlap Usual Components Of The Main Service

These modifiers, collectively referred to as –X {EPSU} modifiers, define specific subsets of the modifier 59. Like CMS, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will not stop recognizing modifier 59; however, note that CPT instructions state that modifier 59 should not be used when a more descriptive modifier is available. In addition, the –X {EPSU} modifiers are more selective versions of modifier 59 so it would be incorrect to include both modifiers on the same line.

CMS will continue to recognize modifier 59 but may selectively require a more specific – X {EPSU} modifier for billing certain codes at high risk for incorrect billing. For example, a particular National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure To Procedure (PTP) code pair edit may be identified as payable only with the -XE separate encounter modifier but not the -59 or other –X {EPSU} modifiers.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will recognize these new modifiers effective for dates of service on and after 1/1/15. Please reference the table below to find out when the new modifiers will be considered in administering the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan’s Reimbursement Policies.

Policy	X{EPSU} Modifiers Considered in Lieu of Modifier 59	Effective for claims with dates of service 1/1/15 processed on or after...
Anesthesia	XE and XU	2/15/15
Bilateral	XS	1/1/15
CCI Editing	XE, XP, XS, and XU	1/1/15
Laboratory Services	XE, XP, XS, and XU	2/15/15
Maximum Frequency Per Day	XE, XS, and XU	1/1/15
Obstetrical	XE, XS, and XU	2/15/15
Pediatric and Neonatal Critical & Intensive Care Services	XE, XS and XU	New policy becomes effective 3/1/15 DOS
Procedure to Modifier	XE, XP, XS, and XU	1/1/15

Professional-Technical Component	XE, XP, XS, and XU	2/15/15
Radiology Multiple Imaging Reduction	XE	1/1/15
Rebundling	XE, XP, XS, and XU	2/15/15

Note Regarding Reimbursement Policies

As with all UnitedHealthcare Community Plan policies, other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or in some cases supersede this policy. These factors include but are not limited to federal and/or state regulatory requirements, physician or other provider contracts, and/or the member's benefit coverage documents.

Unless otherwise noted as follows, these reimbursement policies apply to services reported using the CMS-1500 or its electronic equivalent, or its successor form.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan reimbursement policies do not address all issues related to reimbursement for services rendered to our members, such as the member's benefit plan documents; our medical policies; and the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Physician, Health Care Professional, Facility and Ancillary Provider Administrative Guide. Meeting the terms of a particular reimbursement policy is not a guarantee of payment. Likewise, retirement of a reimbursement policy affects only those system edits associated with the specific policy being retired. Retirement of a reimbursement policy is not a guarantee of payment. Other applicable reimbursement and medical policies and claims edits will continue to apply.

Once implemented, the policies may be viewed at UHCommunityPlan.com > For Health Care Professionals (click on the appropriate state) > Reimbursement Policies.

In the event of an inconsistency or conflict between the information in this Provider Notification and the posted policy, the provisions of the posted reimbursement policy prevail. If you have any questions, please contact your Health Plan Representative or call the number on your Provider Remittance Advice/Explanation of Benefits.