

	Reimbursement Policy Manual		Policy #:	RPM027
Policy Title:	Modifiers XE, XS, XP, XU, and 59 - Distinct Procedural Service			
Section:	Modifiers	Subsection:	None	
Scope: This policy applies to the following Medical (including Pharmacy/Vision) plans:				
Companies:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Companies: Moda Partners, Inc. and its subsidiaries & affiliates <input type="checkbox"/> Moda Health Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Moda Assurance Company <input type="checkbox"/> Summit Health Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) <input type="checkbox"/> OHSU Health IDS			
Types of Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Types <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Group <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Marketplace/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Self-funded <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Advantage <input type="checkbox"/> Short Term <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
States:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All States <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input type="checkbox"/> Texas <input type="checkbox"/> Washington			
Claim forms:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CMS1500 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CMS1450/UB (or the electronic equivalent or successor forms)			
Date:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All dates <input type="checkbox"/> Specific date(s): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Service; For Facilities: <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> Facility admission <input type="checkbox"/> Facility discharge <input type="checkbox"/> Date of processing			
Provider Contract Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracted directly, any/all networks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracted with a secondary network <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Out of Network			
Originally Effective:	1/1/2000	Initially Published:	7/10/2013	
Last Updated:	8/14/2024	Last Reviewed:	8/14/2024	
Last update includes payment policy changes, subject to 28 TAC §3.3703(a)(20)(D)? No				
Last Update Effective Date for Texas:		8/14/2024		

Reimbursement Guidelines

A. 2015 Addition of Modifiers -X{EPSU}

Effective for dates of service January 1, 2015 and following, we will accept modifiers XE, XS, XP, and XU and will expect providers to use modifiers XE, XS, XP, and XU in place of modifier 59 when appropriate.

- Modifier 59 should not be used when one of the -X{EPSU} modifiers describes the reason for the distinct procedural service. The -X{EPSU} modifiers are more specific versions of the -59 modifier.
- It is not appropriate to bill both modifier 59 and a -X{EPSU} modifier on the same line.

B. Criteria for Separate Reimbursement

1. CPT codes submitted with modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59 appended will be considered separately reimbursable when all the following apply:
 - a. The clinical edit is eligible for a modifier bypass (e.g., per edit rationale, CCI modifier indicator = "1", etc.).
 - b. CMS policy on the -X{EPSU} modifiers is evolving. If CMS indicates a specific edit may only be bypassed with a specific -X{EPSU} modifier but is not eligible for a bypass with the other -

X{EPSU} modifier options or with modifier 59, Moda Health will follow those specific requirements as well.

“For example, a particular NCCI PTP code pair may be identified as payable only with the -XE separate encounter modifier but not the -59 or other -X{EPSU} modifiers.”⁵

- c. The CPT code is not considered a bundled component of a more comprehensive procedure (code definitions, standards of medical & surgical practice, etc.).
 - d. The modifier and the code have been submitted in accordance with AMA CPT book guidelines, CPT Assistant guidelines, CMS/NCCI Policy Manual guidelines, and any applicable specialty society guidelines.
 - e. The medical records documentation supports the appropriate use of modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59.
 - f. The procedure code is eligible for separate reimbursement according to the status indicators on the CMS fee schedule for the relevant provider type (physician fee schedule, ASC, OPSS, etc.).
2. The submission of modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59 appended to a procedure code indicates that documentation is available in the patient’s records which will support the distinct or independent identifiable nature of the service submitted with modifier XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59, and that these records will be provided in a timely manner for review upon request.
 3. Modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, and/or 59 do not bypass multiple surgery fee reductions, bilateral fee adjustments, or any other administrative policy other than specific bundling edits which are eligible for a modifier bypass (modifier indicator “1”).

C. Appropriate use of modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59:

Please reference the examples of appropriate & inappropriate use of these modifiers provided in the MLN Fact Sheet “[Proper Use of Modifiers 59, XE, XP, XS, and XU.](#)” (CMS⁶) Some additional examples are provided in the [Appendix](#).

Note: We do not follow instructions under Example 1 on page 5 to use modifiers LT & RT on non-paired organ procedure codes (such as biopsies of skin or destruction of lesions) rather than using modifiers 59 or XS. (CMS⁶)

Instead, our clinical editing follows the CMS instruction indicating modifiers LT & RT are reserved for use with procedure codes for paired organs only (e.g., ears, eyes, nostrils, kidneys, lungs, and ovaries). (CMS¹⁰)

D. Incorrect use of modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59:

1. Procedures in the same anatomical site (e.g., digit, breast, etc.), even with incision lengthening or contiguous incision. (With the one exception of two non-contiguous, separate and distinct lesions of the same anatomical site, one is excised/removed entirely and the second is biopsied. Per CCI, this is an appropriate use of modifier XS.)⁸
2. CPT identified “separate” procedures performed in the same session, same anatomic site, or orifice.
3. Laparoscopic procedure converted to open procedure.
4. Incisional repairs are part of the global surgical package, including deliveries and cosmetic improvement of a previous scar at the location of the current incision.
5. Contiguous structures in the same anatomic site or organ system. [See Coding Guidelines “Different Organs/Contiguous Structures” and CCI Policy Manual, chapter 1.²]

6. Modifier XP should not be used to identify two providers of the same specialty in the same clinic to bypass global surgery package rules, new-patient visit edits, or other same-specialty rules.
7. Appending XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59 to Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes instead of using modifiers -24 or -25.

Codes, Terms, and Definitions

Acronyms & Abbreviations Defined

Acronym or Abbreviation	Definition
AMA	American Medical Association
ASC	Ambulatory Surgery Center
CCI	Correct Coding Initiative (see "NCCI")
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
DRG	Diagnosis Related Group (also known as/see also MS DRG)
ECG / EKG	Electrocardiogram
E/M E&M E & M	Evaluation and Management (services, visit) (Abbreviated as "E/M" in CPT book guidelines, sometimes also abbreviated as "E&M" or "E & M" in some CPT Assistant articles and by other sources.)
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (acronym often pronounced as "hick picks")
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
MS DRG	Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group (also known as/see also DRG)
NCCI	National Correct Coding Initiative (aka "CCI")
OPPS	Outpatient Prospective Payment System
PTP	Procedure To Procedure (a type of NCCI edit)
RPM	Reimbursement Policy Manual (e.g., in context of "RPM052" policy number, etc.)
UB	Uniform Bill

Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
Ipsilateral	On the same side; affecting the same side of the body; the opposite of contralateral. In paralysis, this term is used to describe findings on the same side of the body as the brain or spinal cord lesions producing them.
Contralateral	On the opposite side; originating in or affecting the opposite side of the body, the opposite of homolateral and ipsilateral.

Modifier Definitions:

Modifier	Modifier Description & Definition
Modifier 59	<p>Distinct Procedural Service: Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non-E/M services performed on the same day. Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E/M services, that are not normally reported together, but are appropriate under the circumstances. Documentation must support a different session, different procedure or surgery, different site or organ system, separate incision/excision, separate lesion, or separate injury (or area of injury in extensive injuries) not ordinarily encountered or performed on the same day by the same individual. However, when another already established modifier is appropriate it should be used rather than modifier 59. Only if no more descriptive modifier is available, and the use of modifier 59 best explains the circumstances, should modifier 59 be used.</p> <p>Note: Modifier 59 should not be appended to an E/M service. To report a separate and distinct E/M service with a non-E/M service performed on the same day, see modifier 25.</p>

Effective for dates of service January 1, 2015 and following, CMS established four new HCPCS modifiers to define subsets of the -59 modifier, a modifier used to define a “Distinct Procedural Service.” These modifiers are XE, XS, XP, and XU, and collectively they are referred to as -X{EPSU}. The -X{EPSU} modifiers are more selective versions of the -59 modifier. (CMS ^{4,5})

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

Coding Guidelines & Sources - (Key quotes, not all-inclusive)

Proper & Improper Use of Modifiers, General Statements

“Modifiers may be appended to HCPCS/CPT codes only if the clinical circumstances justify the use of the modifier. A modifier should not be appended to a HCPCS/CPT code solely to bypass an NCCI edit if the clinical circumstances do not justify its use. If the Medicare program imposes restrictions on the use of a modifier, the modifier may only be used to bypass an NCCI edit if the Medicare restrictions are fulfilled.”²

“Modifier 59 and other NCCI-associated modifiers should NOT be used to bypass an NCCI edit unless the proper criteria for use of the modifier are met. Documentation in the medical record must satisfy the criteria required by any NCCI-associated modifier used.”²

Paired Structures, Ipsilateral versus Contralateral

“It is very important that NCCI-associated modifiers only be used when appropriate. In general these circumstances relate to separate patient encounters, separate anatomic sites or separate specimens. (See subsequent discussion of modifiers in this section.) Most edits involving paired organs or structures (e.g., eyes, ears, extremities, lungs, kidneys) have modifier indicators of “1” because the two codes of the code pair edit may be reported if performed on the contralateral organs or structures. Most of these code pairs should not be reported with NCCI-associated modifiers when performed on the ipsilateral organ or structure unless there is a specific coding rationale to bypass the edit. The existence of the NCCI edit indicates that the two codes generally cannot be reported together unless the two corresponding procedures are performed at two separate patient encounters or two separate anatomic locations. However, if the two corresponding procedures are performed at the same patient encounter and in contiguous structures, NCCI-associated modifiers generally should not be utilized.”²

Different Procedure or Surgery

“One of the common misuses of modifier 59 is related to the portion of the definition of modifier 59 allowing its use to describe “different procedure or surgery”. The code descriptors of the two codes of a code pair edit consisting of two surgical procedures or two diagnostic procedures usually represent different procedures or surgeries. The edit indicates that the two procedures/surgeries cannot be reported together if performed at the same anatomic site and same patient encounter. The provider cannot use modifier 59 for such an edit based on the two codes being different procedures/surgeries. However, if the two procedures/surgeries are performed at separate anatomic sites or at separate patient encounters on the same date of service, modifier 59 may be appended to indicate that they are different procedures/surgeries on that date of service.”²

Different Diagnosis

“Use of modifier 59 to indicate different procedures/surgeries does not require a different diagnosis for each HCPCS/CPT coded procedure/surgery. Additionally, different diagnoses are not adequate criteria for use of modifier 59. The HCPCS/CPT codes remain bundled unless the procedures/surgeries are performed at different anatomic sites or separate patient encounters.”²

Different Organs/Contiguous Structures

“From an NCCI perspective, the definition of different anatomic sites includes different organs or different lesions in the same organ. However, it does not include treatment of contiguous structures of the same organ. For example, treatment of the nail, nail bed, and adjacent soft tissue constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site. Treatment of posterior segment structures in the ipsilateral eye constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site. Arthroscopic treatment of a shoulder injury in adjoining areas of the ipsilateral shoulder constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site.”²

“If multiple bacterial blood cultures are performed, including isolation and presumptive identification of isolates, code 87040, *Culture, bacterial; blood, aerobic, with isolation and presumptive identification of isolates (includes anaerobic culture, if appropriate)*, should be used to identify each culture procedure performed. Modifier 59 should be appended to the additional procedures performed to identify each additional culture performed as a distinct service.”³

Relationship of Modifiers XE, XP, XS, and XU to Modifier 59

“These modifiers, collectively referred to as -X{EPSU} modifiers, define specific subsets of the -59 modifier...The -X{EPSU} modifiers are more selective versions of the -59 modifier so it would be incorrect to include both modifiers on the same line.”⁴

“Only if no more descriptive modifier is available, and the use of modifier 59 best explains the circumstances, should modifier 59 be used.”¹

Biopsy at the Time of a More Extensive Procedure, Same Lesion or Separate Lesion

“The component elements of the pre-procedure and post-procedure work for each procedure are included component services of that procedure as a standard of medical/surgical practice. Some general guidelines follow: ...

5. A biopsy performed at the time of another more extensive procedure (e.g., excision, destruction, removal) is separately reportable under specific circumstances.

If the biopsy is performed on a separate lesion, it is separately reportable. This situation may be reported with anatomic modifiers or modifier 59 or XS.”⁸

“Modifiers 59 or - X{EPSU}

Modifiers 59 or - X{EPSU} and other NCCI PTP-associated modifiers shall not be used to bypass a PTP edit unless the proper criteria for use of the modifier are met. Documentation in the medical record must satisfy the criteria required by any NCCI-associated modifier that is used.” (CMS⁹)

“Modifiers -LT and -RT

Modifiers LT and RT apply to codes that identify procedures that can be performed on paired organs, e.g., ears, eyes, nostrils, kidneys, lungs, and ovaries.

These modifiers should be used whenever a procedure is performed on only one side. Hospitals should report the appropriate RT or LT modifier to identify which of the paired organs was operated upon. Do not report modifiers RT and LT when modifier 50 applies.”¹⁰

Cross References

- A. [“Clinical Editing.”](#) Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM002.
- B. [“Valid Modifier to Procedure Code Combinations.”](#) Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM019.
- C. [“Modifier 51 - Multiple Procedure Fee Reductions.”](#) Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM022.

References & Resources

1. American Medical Association. “Appendix A – Modifiers.” *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)*. Chicago: AMA Press.
2. CMS. *National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual*. Chapter 1 General Correct Coding Policies, § E, “Modifiers and Modifier Indicators.”
3. American Medical Association. “Modifier 59”. *CPT Assistant*. Chicago: AMA Press, December 2010, p. 16.
4. CMS. “Specific Modifiers for Distinct Procedural Services.” CMS Manual System, Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification. Transmittal 1422, CR 8863: August 15, 2014.

5. CMS. "Specific Modifiers for Distinct Procedural Services". MedLearn Matters. MLN Matters® Number: MM8863: August 15, 2014.
6. CMS. "Proper Use of Modifier 59." MedLearn Matters. MLN Matters® Number: MLN1783722: Last updated 2024. Last accessed March 7, 2024.
7. Jitendra M.Sc, CPC. "CPT code 77002, 77003, 77001: Fluoroscopy guidance tips." American Medical Coding.com. Published: June 1, 2019; Last accessed December 7, 2020. [https://www.americanmedicalcoding.com/coding-fluoroscopy-cpt-codes/#When to use Fluoroscopy CPT code 76000 and 76001](https://www.americanmedicalcoding.com/coding-fluoroscopy-cpt-codes/#When%20to%20use%20Fluoroscopy%20CPT%20code%2076000%20and%2076001) .
8. CMS. *National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual*. Chapter 1 General Correct Coding Policies, § C.5.
9. CMS. "Modifiers 59 or -X{EPSU}." *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Pub. 100-4), Chapter 23 - Fee Schedule Administration and Coding Requirements, § 20.9.1.1.B. Last updated October 26, 2023; Last accessed March 7, 2024.
10. CMS. "Modifiers -LT and -RT." *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Pub. 100-4), Chapter 4 - Part B Hospital (Including Inpatient Hospital Part B and OPPS), § 20.6.3. Last updated January 25, 2024; Last accessed March 7, 2024.

Background Information

Modifiers are two-character suffixes (alpha and/or numeric) that are attached to a procedure code. CPT modifiers are defined by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS Level II modifiers are defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Like CPT codes, the use of modifiers requires explicit understanding of the purpose of each modifier.

Modifiers provide a way to indicate that the service or procedure has been altered by some specific circumstance but has not been changed in definition or code. Modifiers are intended to communicate specific information about a certain service or procedure that is not already contained in the code definition itself. Some examples are:

- To differentiate between the surgeon, assistant surgeon, and facility fee claims for the same surgery
- To indicate that a procedure was performed bilaterally
- To report multiple procedures performed at the same session by the same provider
- To report only the professional component or only the technical component of a procedure or service
- To designate the specific part of the body that the procedure is performed on (e.g., T3 = Left foot, fourth digit)
- To indicate special ambulance circumstances

More than one modifier can be attached to a procedure code when applicable. Not all modifiers can be used with all procedure codes.

Modifiers do not ensure reimbursement. Some modifiers increase or decrease reimbursement; others are only informational.

Modifiers are not intended to be used to report services that are "similar" or "closely related" to a procedure code. If there is no code or combination of codes or modifier(s) to accurately report the service that was performed, provide written documentation and use the unlisted code closest to the section which resembles the type of service provided to report the service.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT

The purpose of this Reimbursement Policy is to document our payment guidelines for those services covered by a member's medical benefit plan. Healthcare providers (facilities, physicians, and other professionals) are expected to exercise independent medical judgment in providing care to members. Our Reimbursement Policy is not intended to impact care decisions or medical practice.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate claims using valid codes from HIPAA-approved code sets and for accurately, completely, and legibly documenting the services performed. Billed codes shall be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Claims are to be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines (including but not limited to UB Editor, AMA, CPT, CPT Assistant, HCPCS, DRG guidelines, CMS' National Correct Coding Initiative [CCI] Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines).

Benefit determinations will be based on the member's medical benefit plan. Should there be any conflicts between our Reimbursement Policy and the member's medical benefit plan, the member's medical benefit plan will prevail. Fee determinations will be based on the applicable provider fee schedule, whether out of network or participating provider's agreement, and our Reimbursement Policy.

Policies may not be implemented identically on every claim due to variations in routing requirements, dates of processing, or other constraints; we strive to minimize these variations.

***** The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed or saved electronic version of this policy, please verify the information by going to https://www.modahealth.com/medical/policies_reimburse.shtml *****

Policy History

Date	Summary of Update
8/14/2024	Formatting updates. No policy changes.
3/13/2024	Clarified which types of clinical edits may be bypassed with these modifiers, and our policy for modifier 59, X{ESPU} versus RT/LT for non-paired organ procedure codes. Updated Coding Guidelines & Sources and References & Resources.
9/20/2023	Section C: Converted to referencing MLN Fact Sheet examples. Our examples moved to an Appendix. Updated References & Resources. Formatting updates. No policy changes.
9/14/2022	Formatting updates; no policy changes.
7/10/2013	Policy initially approved by the Reimbursement Administrative Policy Review Committee & initial publication.
1/1/2000	Original Effective Date (with or without formal documentation). Policy based on AMA, CMS, & NCCI policy.

Appendix

Appropriate use of modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU, or 59:

The examples provided below are intended to support and supplement the CMS information and examples provided in the MLN Fact Sheet "[Proper Use of Modifiers 59, XE, XP, XS, and XU.](#)"⁶

Example	Use	Rationale
<p>Column 1 Code / Column 2 Code - 93015/93040</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1:</u> CPT Code 93015 – <i>Cardiovascular stress test using maximal or submaximal treadmill or bicycle exercise, continuous electrocardiographic monitoring, and/or pharmacological stress; with physician supervision, with interpretation and report</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 2:</u> CPT Code 93040-XE – <i>Rhythm ECG, one to three leads; with interpretation and report</i></p>	XE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a rhythm ECG is performed during the cardiovascular stress test encounter, CPT code 93040 should not be reported and modifiers 59 or XE should not be used. • If the rhythm ECG is performed at a different encounter than the cardiovascular stress test (before, or after), then 93040 may be reported with modifier XE.⁶
<p>Separate surgical operative session on the same date of service (e.g., 8 AM surgery with one procedure, 4 PM surgery with second procedure code).</p>	XE	<p>Separate encounter.</p>
<p><i>Example not available. Modifier XP is a little unclear. No CMS example scenarios are found. No other good example scenarios are found.</i></p> <p>Note: Like modifier 59, modifier XP should not be appended to an E/M service procedure code; this is not a valid or appropriate procedure/modifier combination. Modifiers -24 or -25 should be used as appropriate instead.</p>	XP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier XP could be used if a cross-provider bundling scenario would apply (not TC/26 bundling), the providers are of different specialties, and the billing office can support that the cross-provider bundling should not apply in this case. <i>No example can be given as this is very uncommon.</i> • Modifier XP should not be appended to E/M service codes.

Example	Use	Rationale
<p>Column 1 Code / Column 2 Code - 11055/11720</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1, Left forearm:</u> CPT Code 17000 – <i>Destruction (eg, laser surgery, electrosurgery, cryosurgery, chemosurgery, surgical curettement), premalignant lesions (eg, actinic keratoses); first lesion</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 2, Left upper arm:</u> CPT Code 11102-XS – <i>Tangential biopsy of skin (e.g., shave, scoop, saucerize, curette); single lesion.</i></p>	XS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same encounter • Different anatomical site and contralateral structure. • (Note: Modifiers LT or RT cannot be used. No anatomic modifiers are available to use.)⁶
<p>Column 1 Code / Column 2 Code - 11402/11106</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1, Left upper back:</u> CPT Code 11402 – <i>Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 2, Left mid-back, separate lesion:</u> CPT Code 11106-XS – <i>Incisional biopsy of skin (eg, wedge) (including simple closure, when performed); single lesion.</i></p>	XS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same encounter • Different and distinct lesions on the back. • Per the CCI Policy Manual: “A biopsy performed at the time of another more extensive procedure (e.g., excision, destruction, removal) is separately reportable under specific circumstances. If the biopsy is performed on a separate lesion, it is separately reportable. This situation may be reported with anatomic modifiers or modifier 59 or XS.”⁸ • (Note: Modifiers LT or RT cannot be used. No anatomic modifiers are available to use.)
<p>Column 1 Code / Column 2 Code - 11055/11720</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1:</u> CPT Code 11055 - <i>Paring or cutting of benign hyperkeratotic lesion (eg, corn or callus); single lesion</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 2:</u> CPT Code 11720 – <i>Debridement of nail(s) by any method(s); one to five</i></p>	XS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifiers 59 or –X{EPSU} should not be used if a nail is debrided on the same toe on which a hyperkeratotic lesion of the skin on or distal to the distal interphalangeal joint is pared. • If one to four nails are debrided (can append up to 4 modifiers) and a hyperkeratotic lesion is pared on a toe other than one with a debrided toenail, then report CPT code 11720 with the appropriate toe modifiers for the one to four toes with nail debridement (e.g., 11720-T1, T2, T3, T4), and report CPT code 11055 with the toe modifier for the different toe with the paring performed (e.g., 11055-T7). • If five nails are debrided (can append a maximum of 4 modifiers) and a hyperkeratotic lesion is pared on a toe other than one with a debrided toenail, then report CPT code 11720 with modifier XS, and report CPT code 11055 with the toe modifier for the different toe with the paring performed (e.g., 11055-T7).

Example	Use	Rationale
Separate injury (or area of injury in extensive injuries).	XS versus 59	Depending upon your specific circumstances XS or 59 may be most appropriate.
<p>Column 1 Code/Column 2 Code 93453/76000</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1:</u> CPT Code 93453 – Combined right and left heart catheterization including intraprocedural injections(s) for left ventriculography, imaging supervision and interpretation, when performed</p> <p><u>Procedure # 2:</u> CPT Code 10121 – <i>Incision and removal of foreign body, subcutaneous tissues; complicated</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 3:</u> CPT Code 76000-XU – <i>Fluoroscopy (separate procedure), up to one hour physician time, other than 71023 or 71034 (eg, cardiac fluoroscopy)</i></p>	XU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPT code 76000 should not be reported and Modifiers 59 or –X{EPSU} should not be used for fluoroscopy that is used in conjunction with a cardiac catheterization procedure. • Modifier –XU may be reported with code 76000 if the fluoroscopy is performed for a procedure unrelated to the cardiac catheterization procedure, such as to locate the foreign body for CPT 10121. ^{6,7}
<p>Column 1 Code / Column 2 Code - 37220/75710</p> <p><u>Procedure # 1:</u> CPT Code 37220 – <i>Revascularization, endovascular, open or percutaneous, iliac artery, unilateral, initial vessel; with transluminal angioplasty</i></p> <p><u>Procedure # 2:</u> CPT Code 75710 – <i>Angiography, extremity, unilateral, radiological supervision and interpretation.</i></p>	XU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a diagnostic angiography has not been previously performed and based on the result of today’s based on the result of the diagnostic angiography a decision is made to perform the revascularization, then 75710-XU may be separately reported. • If a diagnostic angiography has been previously performed, then 75710 may not be separately reported and modifiers XU or 59 may not be used. • If the revascularization is performed and at the end of the procedure an angiography is performed to verify that the revascularization has been successful, this is considered included in the revascularization, and 75710 may not be separately reported and modifiers XU or 59 may not be used. <p>See CCI Policy Manual, chapter 1, modifier 59 guidelines. ^{2,6}</p>
Benign skin lesion (0.7 cm) removed from left posterior ribs (11401) and benign skin lesion (0.4 cm) removed from right arm (11400-59).	59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same encounter • Same organ system and/or structure (skin) • Different lesions.

Example	Use	Rationale
<p>Diagnostic mediastinoscopy via midline incision (39400) and thoracoscopy of right lateral lung via lateral incision with biopsy of pleura (32609-XS??).</p> <p>Different organ system (e.g., laparoscopy on separate organ systems).</p>	59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same encounter • Same organ system (respiratory) • Different incision.
<p>Colonoscopy with snare removal of polyp in transverse colon (45385) and bipolar cautery of polyp in descending colon (45384-59).</p>	59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same encounter • Same incision or orifice (rectum) • Different/separate lesions.