

# Co-Surgeon

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0005.2100

Recent review date: 12/2023

Next review date: 11/2025

*AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

This Co-Surgeon policy identifies the guidelines for reimbursement of Co-Surgeon services, as identified by CMS, and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Medicaid program.

## Exceptions

Reimbursement for Co-Surgery services furnished by a non-physician practitioner (NPP) is not available from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana. The CMS claims processing manual guidelines for Co-Surgery refer to surgical procedures involving two different surgeons, usually of different specialties.

## Reimbursement Guidelines

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will follow CPT guidelines and LDH policy for Co-Surgery reimbursement. Modifier 62 identifies a Co-Surgeon involved in the care of a patient performing distinct parts of a procedure. To qualify for reimbursement, each Co-Surgeon must submit the same Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code with modifier 62, for the same date of service. For services included on the CMS Co-Surgeon eligible list,

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will reimburse Co-Surgeon services per applicable LDH Medicaid fee schedule(s) subject to additional multiple-procedure reductions, if applicable.

All codes with CMS status code indicators "1" or "2" for "Co-Surgeons" are considered by AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana to be eligible for Co-Surgeon reimbursement if billed with the Co-Surgeon modifier 62. For each Co-Surgeon to be reimbursed for the procedure, each Co-Surgeon must report the same CPT code(s) with modifier 62 on procedures that required the skill of two surgeons.

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana reimburses co-surgery procedures reported with modifier 62 at the lesser of billed charges or 80% (eighty percent) of the fee on file for each surgeon. Multiple procedure reductions apply to Co-Surgeon claim submissions when one or more physicians are billing multiple CPT codes that are eligible for reductions.

**Definitions**

**Modifier 62**

Two (2) surgeons of the same or different specialties who work together as primary surgeons performing distinct part(s) of a surgical procedure.

**Multiple procedure reduction**

Multiple procedures performed by the same physician, or other qualified health care professional, on the same date of service during the same patient encounter may be subject to multiple procedure reduction for secondary and subsequent procedures.

**Nonphysician practitioner (NPP)**

A healthcare provider who is not a physician but who practices in collaboration with or under the supervision of a physician. Nonphysician practitioners may also be known as mid-level practitioners or physician extenders (e.g., Physician Assistants (PA), Nurse Practitioners (NP), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)).

**Edit Sources**

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT),
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS),
- III. International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), and associated publications and services.
- IV. Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

**Attachments**

N/A

**Associated Policies**

N/A

**Policy History**

04/2024	Revised preamble
12/2023	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
11/2023	Updated to biennial policy

08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana from Policy History section
01/2023	Template revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised preamble</li> <li>• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li> <li>• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li> <li>• Added Associated Policies section</li> </ul>