

# Decision for Surgery Modifier -25 vs. -57

CPT Modifier 25 - Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service, Same Provider, Same Day

CPT Modifier 57 - Decision for Surgery

Major Surgery - Any procedure with a value of 090 (90 post-operative days) in the "Global Surgery" field of the CMS NPFS

Minor Surgery - Any procedure with a value of 000 (0 post-operative days) or 010 (10 post-operative days) in the "Global Surgery" field of the CMS NPFS

According to CMS, the surgical package includes pre-operative visits after the decision is made to operate. Thus, to ensure payment, providers must differentiate between the E&M billed for a decision for surgery (which is payable) and an E&M billed for a pre-operative visit (which is included in the surgical package). This distinction is accomplished by using modifier 57.

### Major Surgery

When a decision for surgery is made the day before or day of a major surgery, the E&M billed for the decision for surgery must have modifier –57 appended.

## Minor Surgery

The decision to perform a minor procedure is typically done immediately before the service and is considered a routine preoperative service. A visit or consultation is not billed in addition to the procedure.

#### Both Major and Minor Surgeries on the Same Day

When a decision for surgery includes both major and minor surgeries and is made the day of surgery, the E&M billed for the decision must have both modifier –57 and modifier –25 appended. The –25 indicates that the E&M is separate and distinct from the minor surgery preoperative visit.

Both the medically necessary E&M service and the procedure must be appropriately and sufficiently documented by the physician or qualified non-physician practitioner in the patient's medical record to support the claim for these services.



#### Sources

#### CMS:

https://www.cms.gov/ Outreach-and-Education/ Medicare-Learning-Network -MLN/MLNProducts/ downloads/GloballSurgery-ICN907166.pdf

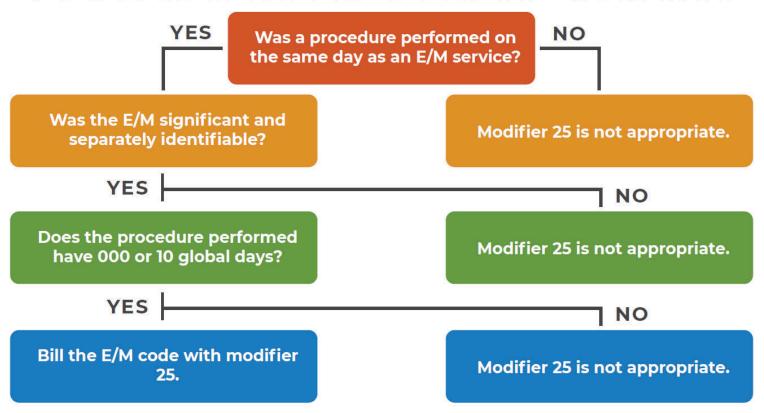
https://www.cms.gov/ Regulations-and-Guidance/ Guidance/Manuals/ Downloads/clm104c12.pdf

#### CMS NPFS:

https://www.cms.gov/Medic are/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSche d/PFS-Relative-Value-Files.html



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