



Clarification of the Use of Modifiers When Billing “Wrong Surgery on a Patient” – JA0927

Related CR Release Date: N/A

Date Job Aid Revised: October 9, 2009

Effective Date: N/A

Implementation Date: N/A

Key Words	SE0927, Modifiers, Billing, Surgery
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Carriers • Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) • Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	The providers affected are physicians, other practitioners, and providers billing Medicare Carriers, FIs, and A/B MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.



Some providers or their billing services may be incorrectly using the modifier PC to indicate the Professional Component for certain services not related to surgical error when the modifier 26 should have been used.

The use of the PC modifier on Medicare claims will result in the claim being denied.

Provider Needs to Know...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLN Matters® article SE0927 clarifies the correct use of certain Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) modifiers. • Providers should note that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier PC is used to identify Wrong Surgery on Patient. The modifier PC is to be appended (where appropriate) to all claim lines related to a surgical error; and • Modifier 26 is used to identify the professional component of a service or a procedure.
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Background

- HCPCS modifier "PC" (Wrong Surgery on Patient) was recently established in Change Request 6405 (along with two other modifiers) for use in Medicare billing to be appended (where appropriate) to all claim lines related to a surgical error.
- Providers should review the related MLN Matters® article MM6405: "Wrong Surgical or Other Invasive Procedures Performed on a Patient, Surgical or Other Invasive Procedures Performed on the Wrong Body Part, and Surgical or Other Invasive Procedures Performed on the Wrong Patient," which explains the wrong surgery HCPCS modifiers.
- This article is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6405.pdf> on the CMS website.

Operational
Impact

N/A

Reference
Materials

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0927.pdf> on the CMS website.
