

**Audio Title: Clarification of the Use of Modifiers When Billing “Wrong Surgery on a Patient”**

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If you submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors, or MACs, for services provided to beneficiaries then you will benefit from this podcast. This podcast is intended for physicians and other practitioners.

This podcast, based on MLN Matters® Article SE0927, clarifies the correct use of certain Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, or HCPCS modifiers, specifically when billing for wrong surgery on a patient.

First, we’ll discuss the HCPCS modifiers PC - Wrong Surgery on Patient, which was established in CR6405, along with two other modifiers, for use in Medicare billing, to be added, where appropriate, to all claim lines related to surgical error.

You as a provider or your billing services may be incorrectly using the HCPCS modifier PC to indicate the professional component for certain services not related to surgical error when the modifier 26 should have been used. You need to be aware that the use of the PC modifier on Medicare claims will result in your claim being denied.

Be sure that you and your billing personnel prepare claims submitted to Medicare with the correct codes in order for the claims to process correctly.

Modifier PC is used to identify Wrong Surgery on a patient. The modifier PC is to be added, where appropriate, to all claim lines related to a surgical error.

Last, we’ll discuss Modifier 26. Modifier 26 is used to identify the professional component of a service or a procedure.

There are some additional resources to guide you in your use of modifier PC. The specific sites at which they can be found can be located on page two of SE0927.



To download the MLN Matters® Article SE0927, go to the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) and click on “Outreach and Education” at the top of the page. From that page, scroll down to the Medicare Learning Network section and click on the MLN Matters® Articles link. Follow the links to “2009 MLN Matters® Articles” and search for SE article number “SE0927.”

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