

New Medicare Modifiers – XE, XP, XS, XU



Four New Modifiers to Use Instead of Modifier 59 – XE, XS, XP, XU

Proper modifier usage can be one of the biggest hurdles to filing a clean claim. Medicare recently announced they've established four new modifiers – XE, XS, XP, and XU – that may be used in lieu of modifier 59. The codes are more specific and become effective January 1, 2015.

To start, let's quickly define the four newest HCPCS modifiers, also commonly referred to as -X{EPSU} modifiers. The acronym EPSU is made up of the last letter of the new modifiers.

Modifier XE

Separate Encounter: A service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter.

Modifier XP

Separate Practitioner: A service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner.

Modifier XS

Separate Structure: A service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure.

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.

-X{EPSU}
-XE -XP -XS -XU
Modifiers

What is Modifier 59?

Modifier 59 is used to define a “Distinct Procedural Service.” These are procedures and services performed by a healthcare provider that are not typically reported together, but are appropriate and separately billable given the circumstances.

When modifier 59 is appended to a CPT code, it indicates that the service is separate and distinct from another service with which it would usually be bundled. The modifier allows the claim to pass Medicare bundling edits, resulting in additional reimbursement for the physician. Modifier 59 can be used to indicate a variety of situations including:

- Different encounters;
- Different anatomic sites; and
- Distinct services.

It’s also important to remember that modifier 59 should not be attached to an E/M service.

Why New Modifiers?

Modifier 59 is not only the most used modifier, but it’s also the most abused. And while the abuse may be unintentional at times, the improper coding leads to incorrectly paid claims. As audits have increased, CMS has realized that more specific modifiers may be helpful in deterring this abuse.

The -X{EPSU} modifiers are essentially a subset of modifier 59. CMS believes their usage will help reduce overpayment errors.

How to Use the –X{EPSU} Modifiers

Modifier 59 is not going away and will continue to be a valid modifier, according to Medicare. However, modifier 59 should **NOT** be used when a more appropriate modifier, like a XE, XP,

XS or XU modifier, is available. Certain codes that are prone to incorrect billing may also require one of the new modifiers.

CMS is encouraging providers to adopt the modifiers quickly; they may be used by Medicare and considered valid even before national edits are in place on January 1st.

Additional Information

Medicare Learning Network: [MLM MM8863](#)

Manual System: [Transmittal 1422](#)

Here is a link to my other post with some examples of how to use the new modifiers. **[CLICK FOR MODIFIER EXAMPLES](#)**

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Manny Oliverrez, CPC, is a 20-year healthcare veteran and the CEO and co-founder of Capture Billing, a medical billing services company located outside of Washington, D.C. He teaches the nation's physicians, administrators, and medical practices how to maximize billing and revenue cycle management processes. Manny also frequently posts articles and videos on his [award-winning healthcare blog](#). For more information on Manny and his company, please visit [his website](#), or call (703)327-1800. And if you're on [LinkedIn](#), please look for him there too. **READ MORE**

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