

<b>Reimbursement Policy</b>	
Subject: <b>Modifier 63</b>	
Policy Number: <b>G-06015</b>	Policy Section: <b>Coding</b>
Last Approval Date: <b>11/04/2022</b>	Effective Date: <b>01/01/2021</b>

\*\*\*\* Visit our provider website for the most current version of our reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>. \*\*\*\*

### Disclaimer

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) if the service is covered for Healthy Blue + Medicare<sup>SM</sup> (HMO D-SNP). The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence. You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with CPT<sup>®</sup> codes, HCPCS codes, and/or revenue codes. The codes denote the services and/or procedures performed. The billed code(s) are required to be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to participating providers and facilities; a noncontracting provider who accepts Medicare assignment will be reimbursed for services according to the original Medicare reimbursement rates.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage strives to minimize these variations.

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/provider-home>

Healthy Blue + Medicare<sup>SM</sup> (HMO D-SNP) is a Medicare Advantage plan offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC). Certain administrative services for Healthy Blue + Medicare are provided by Amerigroup Partnership Plan, LLC (Amerigroup) pursuant to an administrative services agreement. References to Blue Cross NC may mean Blue Cross NC or their designee, Amerigroup.  
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Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage reserves the right to review and revise our policies periodically when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to our provider website.

### Policy

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement for surgery on neonates and infants up to a present body weight of 4 kg when billed with Modifier 63 unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Reimbursement is based on 100% of the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the procedure code when the modifier is valid for services performed. The neonate weight should be documented clearly in the report for the service.

When an assistant surgeon is used and/or multiple procedures are performed on neonates or infants less than 4 kg in the same operative session, assistant surgeon and/or multiple procedure rules and fee reductions apply.

### Nonreimbursable

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage does **not** allow reimbursement for Modifier 63 billed in the following circumstances:

- For facility billing
- With evaluation and management codes
- With anesthesia codes
- With radiology codes
- With pathology/laboratory codes
- With medicine codes
- With Modifier 63-exempt codes
- In addition to Modifier 22 (Unusual Services) for the same procedure code(s)
- With codes denoting invasive procedures that include **neonate** or **infant** in the description since the reimbursement rate for the code already reflects the additional work

### Related Coding

Standard correct coding applies

### Policy History

11/04/2022	Review approved; minor language updates; changed title to only include Modifier 63; updated Modifier 63 definition
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective date

**References and Research Materials**

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- American Medical Association, CPT 2020, Professional Edition
- CMS
- State Contracts
- Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage contract(s)
- Optum Learning: Understanding Modifiers, 2020 Edition
- Optum EncoderPro 2022 for Payers Professional

**Definitions**

Modifier 63	Procedures performed on neonates and infants up to a present body weight of 4 kg may involve significantly increased complexity and physician or other qualified healthcare professional work commonly associated with these patients. This circumstance may be reported by adding modifier 63 to the procedure number.
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General Reimbursement Policy Definitions

**Related Policies and Materials**

Assistant at Surgery (Modifiers 80/81/82/AS)
Modifier 22: Increased Procedural Service
Modifier Usage
Multiple and Bilateral Surgery