



Effective 10/25/2026

Lines Of Business All Lines of Business

Modifier AA, AD, QK, QX, QY, QZ (Anesthesia Services)

DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, and TERMS

Covered Service	Medically necessary services, as determined by the plan and described in the applicable benefit plan, for which a member is eligible for coverage
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist is an advanced practice nurse who administers anesthesia for surgery or other medical procedures
Fee Schedule	The complete listing of rates for services that represents payment for each unit of service allowed based on applicable coded service identifier(s) for covered services
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
Medically Directed	The anesthesiologist is involved in specific aspects of anesthesia services performed by other qualified individuals, the service is medically directed
Medically Supervised	The anesthesiologist is involved in furnishing more than four (4) procedures concurrently, the service is medically supervised
Payment Recovery	Request to return payment or retraction of payment by offsetting future payments
Qualified Individuals	CRNAs, anesthesiologists, assistants, residents, or combinations of these individuals

BACKGROUND

A modifier is two characters (alpha and/or numeric) appended to a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code. The modifier provides additional information about the product or service without changing the meaning of the code billed.

A pricing modifier is a modifier that causes a pricing change for the code billed.

POLICY

Modifier AA	Anesthesia service personally performed by anesthesiologist
Modifier AD	Medical supervision by a physician; more than four (4) concurrent anesthesia procedures
Modifier QK	Medical direction of two (2), three (3) or four (4) concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals
Modifier QX	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) service: with medical direction by a physician
Modifier QY	Medical direction of one (1) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) by an anesthesiologist
Modifier QZ	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) service: without medical direction by a physician

A Physician anesthesiologist reports AA, AD, QK, or QY.

A CRNA or Anesthesiologist Assistant reports QK.

Modifier QZ is specific to CRNAs.

Anesthesia services are required to be submitted with the appropriate anesthesia payment modifier to indicate the number of practitioners and roles involved in the anesthesia service.

If two (2) anesthesia services claims are received for the same patient, same date of service, and the payment modifiers do not agree about the medical direction or supervision performed, the first claim received will be reviewed. The second claim processed is subject to denial due to lack of consistent information about who performed the service.

Adjustments to the second anesthesia practitioner claim cannot be made until a corrected claim is received from the first anesthesia practitioner.

Payment Impact

Modifier AA

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	No Impact
Medicare	No Impact
Mountain Health Trust	No Impact
PEIA	No Impact
Self-Funded/ASO	No Impact

Modifier AD

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	50%
Medicare Advantage	50%
Mountain Health Trust	60%

PEIA	60%
Self-Funded/ASO	50%

Modifier QK

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	50%
Medicare Advantage	50%
Mountain Health Trust	60%
PEIA	60%
Self-Funded/ASO	50%

Modifier QX

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	50%
Medicare Advantage	50%
PEIA	50%
Mountain Health Trust	40%
Self-Funded/ASO	50%

Modifier QY

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	50%
Medicare Advantage	50%
Mountain Health Trust	60%
PEIA	60%
Self-Funded/ASO	50%

Modifier QZ

Line of Business	Percentage (%) of Fee Schedule
Commercial	No Impact
Medicare Advantage	No Impact
Mountain Health Trust	No Impact
PEIA	No Impact
Self-Funded/ASO	No Impact

As a reminder, The Health Plan (THP) applies claims edits to all services including those with modifiers.

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