



ClaimsXten Multiple Surgical Reductions Reimbursement

Multiple surgery reduction is the general industry term applied to the practice of paying decreasing pay percentages for multiple surgeries performed during the same surgical session. When more than one surgical procedure is submitted for a patient on the same date of service, the -51 modifier (Multiple Procedures) should be appended to the secondary code(s). With few exceptions, the primary procedure is the most clinically intensive procedure, usually with the highest relative value. Certain procedure codes are exempt from this process due to their status as “add-on” or “modifier 51 exempt” codes as defined in the *Current Procedural Terminology*.

The “ClaimsXten” (CXT) editing product, like ClaimCheck, allows the claims processing system to add or remove the -51 modifier appropriately to assure proper reimbursement. When multiple surgical procedures are submitted, the procedures are ranked in descending order based on the identified RVU. The highest ranked procedure is paid at 100% of either the Medicaid allowable fee or the billed charge, whichever is lower. All other procedures will be paid at 50% of the Medicaid allowable fee, or 50% of the billed charge, whichever is less.

When CXT identifies that the -51 modifier was not appended correctly, the line will deny. CXT will automatically add the line back with the -51 modifier appended correctly to assure proper reimbursement. Providers will see the following messages when these edits occur:

Denial Message:

- 914: Claim denied/CXT. Incorrect use of modifier 51.

Educational Messages:

- 934: Modifier 51 required. Added to claim-CXT
- 938: Modifier 51 invalid. Removed/CXT

Providers must submit claims for multiple surgical procedures, performed on the same date of service by the same rendering provider, at the same time. Overpayments due to fragmenting claim submissions are subject to review, recovery of the overpayment, and additional sanctions as deemed appropriate by Louisiana Medicaid.

Questions regarding this message and fee for service claims are to be directed to Gainwell Technologies Provider Relations at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.