

CAN I GET PAID FOR AN EVALUATION PRIOR TO SURGERY?



Recorded April, 2022

The global surgical package



Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Is it a minor or major procedure?

- CPT doesn't define minor or major
- CMS assigns global days to procedures in the Medicare Fee Schedule
 - 0-10 minor procedure
 - 90 major procedure

This video discusses evaluation before a major procedure

Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Medicare Fee Schedule

Procedures with a global period include an indicator for global days

- **0, 10** - minor procedures
- **90** - major procedure
- **XXX** - the global concept does not apply
- **YYY** - service is priced by the individual Medicare contractor
- **ZZZ** - add-on code to surgical code



Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

A major procedure includes

All E/M services the day of and the day before a major procedure

Unless

- It is the visit at which the decision for surgery was made

Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Scheduled from the office

See a patient in the office, and
schedule the patient for surgery
anytime but today or tomorrow:

No modifier is needed



Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Initial evaluation & major procedure

57

Decision for Surgery. An evaluation and management service that resulted in the initial decision to perform surgery may be identified by adding modifier 57 to the appropriate level of E/M service.

- Use only on the visit for which surgery was made **when the major surgery will be done that day or the next day.**

Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Modifier 57

- Use when an urgent surgery is scheduled
- Calendar day, not 24 hour period
- Bypasses claims editing system
- Both procedure and E/M should be paid at full fee

Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Can you get paid?

Yes, you should always get paid for the evaluation before a major procedure

Denials:

- Appeal
- Talk to medical director of insurance company
- Talk to your specialty society
- State insurance commissioner

Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti

Thank you



- www.betsynicoletti.com
- www.codingintel.com
- Follow me on twitter
@BetsyNicoletti



Recorded April, 2022 © 2022 Betsy Nicoletti