



May 17, 2024

**Re: Cigna Healthcare Medicare Advantage reimbursement policy update – Bilateral procedure codes billed without the required modifier effective August 17, 2024**

We routinely review our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies for potential updates. In that review, we take into consideration one or more of the following: evidence-based medicine, professional society recommendations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, industry standards, and our other existing policies.

As a result of a recent review, we will implement a new reimbursement policy, Modifier 50 Bilateral Procedures (MAM50), to administratively deny bilateral procedure codes when billed without the required modifier, LT (left side), RT (right side) or 50, as appropriate.

Denials will affect the claim line only and include administrative appeal rights. However, a corrected claim should first be submitted for payment. This update is effective for dates of service on or after August 17, 2024.

**Additional information**

For more information about our policy updates, visit the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website ([CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com)) > Resources > Coverage Policies > Policy Updates.

If you are not a registered user, please register so that you may log in and access all of our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies. To register, go to [CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com) and click Register. If you do not have Internet access or would like additional information, call Cigna Healthcare Provider Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.

Thank you for the care you provide to our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie B. Kessel MD".

Julie B. Kessel, MD  
Medical Officer for Coverage Policy  
Clinical Performance & Quality Organization

**At a glance**

- We will administratively deny bilateral procedure codes when billed without the required modifier, LT (left side), RT (right side) or 50, as appropriate.
- This update is effective for dates of service on or after August 17, 2024.
- For additional information, call Cigna Healthcare Provider Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.