

<p><b>Policy Name</b></p>	<p><b>Assistant Surgeon Services</b></p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	<p>This policy addresses submission of services and the eligibility of reimbursement for services provided by an Assistant Surgeon.</p> <p>An assistant surgeon assists the primary surgeon performing a surgical procedure.</p> <p>Codes eligible for reimbursement for an assistant at surgery are codes designated by CMS with minor modifications. Individual consideration may be made when there are extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>The reimbursement amount is dependent upon the assistant surgeon modifier appended to the surgical code submitted.</p> <p>Only one assistant surgeon will be reimbursed for each eligible procedure.</p>
<p><b>Related Coding Information</b></p>	<p><b>Modifier 80</b> <i>Assistant Surgeon</i></p> <p><b>Modifier 82</b> <i>Assistant Surgeon (when qualified resident surgeon not available)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifiers 80 and 82 are to be submitted by physicians (MD/DO) and are reimbursed at 20% of the allowable amount for eligible surgical procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Modifier 81</b> <i>Minimum Assistant Surgeon</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifier 81 is to be submitted by a physician and is reimbursed at 16% of the allowable amount for eligible surgical procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Modifier AS</b> <i>Physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist services for assistant at surgery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifier AS is to be submitted by physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists and is reimbursed at 14% of the allowable amount for eligible surgical procedures.</li> <li>• Reimbursement is provided for RNFA services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Related Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 Assistant Surgeon Eligible List</li> <li>• 2006 Assistant Surgeon Eligible List</li> <li>• 2005 Assistant Surgeon Eligible List</li> </ul>

<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)</li><li>• Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</li><li>• Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)</li><li>• National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS)</li><li>• Medica Reimbursement Committee</li></ul>
<b>Effective Date</b>	04/01/99
<b>Latest Revision Date</b>	1/01/2007 1/01/2006
<b>Explanation of Change</b>	2007 Annual CPT Update 2006 Annual CPT Update

© 2006 Medica. Medica® is a registered service mark of Medica Health Plans. "Medica" refers to the family of health plan businesses that includes Medica Health Plans, Medica Health Plans of Wisconsin, Medica Insurance Company, and Medica Self-Insured.