

Ambulatory Surgery Center

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0036.2400

Recent review date: 08/2026

Reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. The health plan may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Policy Overview

This policy addresses the allowable facility services and reimbursement of those services in an ambulatory surgery center (ASC).

Exceptions

N/A

Reimbursement Guidelines

ASCs are reimbursed based on the procedure code billed, with the code generating the highest reimbursement paying at 100 percent of the allowed amount. All other procedure codes pay at 50 percent of the allowed amount.

Multiple surgery reduction is paid at 100% of the fee schedule for the primary procedure and 50% for each additional procedure. When more than two surgical procedures are performed at the same operative session, the 51 modifier must accompany the second procedure and any subsequent procedure(s). If the 51 modifier is not used, the claim will be rejected.

Prior authorization is based on the services performed. A claim for a service considered non-covered by the health plan will be denied for payment.

Claims for ambulatory surgery procedures or services must be submitted with Place of Service 24 for reimbursement.

Definitions

Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)

A certified ambulatory surgery center (ASC) may be either hospital-operated or independent. If hospital-operated, the ASC must be a separately identified entity, physically and administratively distinct from other inpatient operations of the hospital. An ASC may not provide a surgical procedure on a Medicare patient when, before surgery, an overnight hospital stay is anticipated. In cases where hospitalization after surgery is warranted, the ASC must be able to provide immediate transfer to a hospital.

Place of Service (POS) — 24

Place of Service (POS) — 24 represents a freestanding facility, other than a physician's office, where surgical and diagnostic services are provided on an ambulatory basis.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT).
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- III. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and associated publications and services.
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- VI. Select Health of South Carolina provider manual <https://www.selecthealthofsc.com/pdf/provider/claim-filing-manual.pdf>.
- VII. South Carolina Department of Health & Human Services: <https://www.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/manuals/Medical%20Clinics/Section%202.pdf>.

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

RPC.0033.2400 Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction
RPC.0006.2400 Bilateral Procedure
RPC.0063.2400 Place of Service

Policy History

09/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed the next review date Replaced the plan name with “the health plan”
08/2026	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
07/2026	Biennial review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Place of Service definition and policy
06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
05/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2025	Revised preamble
11/2024	Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated to biennial policy No major changes
04/2024	Revised preamble
02/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval