

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-001
Subject: Assistant at Surgery Services
Effective Date: August 1, 2016 **End Date:**
Issue Date: September 11, 2023 **Revised Date:** September 2023
Date Reviewed: August 2023
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Medicare Advantage Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Claim Type	UB	<input type="checkbox"/>	1500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

➔ A checked box indicates the policy is applicable to that market either entirely, or partially, as indicated within the policy.

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this policy.

An assistant at surgery is a physician or non-physician (NPP) who meets the Plan eligibility guidelines and actively assists the physician in charge of a case in performing a surgical procedure.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Commercial

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for his/her employed physician assistant (PA), certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or certified nurse midwife (CNM).

Note: Modifier AS must be appended to the claim line when reporting assistant surgery performed by an employed PA, CRNP and CNM.

Medicare Advantage

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP) or a clinical nurse specialist (CNS).

Note: Modifier AS must be reported when billing assistant at surgery services.

Note: PAs, NPs and CNSs must report their assistant at surgery services using their assigned NPI.

Note: Delaware reimbursement references Chapter 12 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual.

DEFINITIONS:

Modifier	Definition
AS	Physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist services for assistant at surgery
80	Assistant surgery
81	Minimum assistant surgery
82	Assistant, no resident

RELATED POLICIES:

Refer to the following Highmark Commercial Medical Policies for applicable clinical information:

- S-16: Assistant Surgery Eligibility Criteria
- Z-10: Services of Physician Assistants

Refer to the following Highmark Commercial Medical Policies for applicable clinical information:

- N-28: Assistant at Surgery Services
- N-116: Services of Physician Assistants
- N-115: Clinical Nurse Specialist Services
- N-113: Nurse Practitioner Services

ADDITIONAL BILLING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:

- CMS online Manual, Pub. 100-04. Chapter 12

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

6 / 2018	Implementation
7 / 2020	Added 13.6 percent reimbursement for all commercial PA, CRNP, CNM
1 / 2022	Added Delaware Medicare Advantage applicable to the policy
9 / 2023	Added modifier definition section. Administrative review no changes in policy direction

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-001
Subject: Assistant at Surgery Services
Effective Date: August 1, 2016 **End Date:**
Issue Date: January 3, 2022 **Revised Date:** January 2022
Date Reviewed: October 2021
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Medicare Advantage Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Claim Type	UB	<input type="checkbox"/>	1500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

➔ A checked box indicates the policy is applicable to that market either entirely, or partially, as indicated within the policy.

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this policy.

An assistant at surgery is a physician or non-physician (NPP) who meets the Plan eligibility guidelines and actively assists the physician in charge of a case in performing a surgical procedure.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Commercial

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for his/her employed physician assistant (PA), certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or certified nurse midwife (CNM).

Note: Modifier AS must be appended to the claim line when reporting assistant surgery performed by an employed PA, CRNP and CNM.

Medicare Advantage

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP) or a clinical nurse specialist (CNS).

Note: Modifier AS must be reported when billing assistant at surgery services.

Note: PAs, NPs and CNSs must report their assistant at surgery services using their assigned NPI.

Note: Delaware reimbursement references Chapter 12 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual.

RELATED POLICIES:

Refer to the following Highmark Commercial Medical Policies for applicable clinical information:

- S-16: Assistant Surgery Eligibility Criteria
- Z-10: Services of Physician Assistants

Refer to the following Highmark Commercial Medical Policies for applicable clinical information:

- N-28: Assistant at Surgery Services
- N-116: Services of Physician Assistants
- N-115: Clinical Nurse Specialist Services
- N-113: Nurse Practitioner Services

ADDITIONAL BILLING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:

- CMS online Manual, Pub. 100-04. Chapter 12

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

6 / 2018	Implementation
7 / 2020	Added 13.6 percent reimbursement for all commercial PA, CRNP, CNM
1 / 2022	Added Delaware Medicare Advantage applicable to the policy

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP- 001
Subject: Assistant at Surgery Services
Effective Date: August 1, 2016
Issue Date: October 1, 2021
Date Reviewed: July 2021
Source: Reimbursement Policy

End Date:
Revised Date: July 2021

Applicable Commercial Market

PA WV DE NY

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market

PA WV DE NY

Applicable Claim Type

UB 1500

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this Policy.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy to provide direction on assistant at surgery services. An assistant at surgery is a physician or non-physician (NPP) who meets the Plan eligibility guidelines and actively assists the physician in charge of a case in performing a surgical procedure.

COMMERCIAL REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for his/her employed physician assistant (PA), certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or certified nurse midwife (CNM).

Note: Modifier AS must be appended to the claim line when reporting assistant surgery performed by an employed PA, CRNP and CNM.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

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Note: Modifier AS must be reported when billing assistant at surgery services.

Note: PAs, NPs and CNSs must report their assistant at surgery services using their assigned NPI.

Note: Delaware reimbursement references Chapter 12 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual.

RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

- S-16: Assistant Surgery Eligibility Criteria
- Z-10: Services of Physician Assistants

Refer to the following Medicare Advantage Medical Policies for additional information:

- N-28: Assistant at Surgery Services
- N-116: Services of Physician Assistants
- N-115: Clinical Nurse Specialist Services
- N-113: Nurse Practitioner Services

ADDITIONAL BILLING INFORMATION, REFERENCES, AND GUIDELINES:

- CMS online Manual, Pub. 100-04. Chapter 12

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

6 / 2018	Implementation
7 / 2020	Added 13.6 percent reimbursement for all commercial PA, CRNP, CNM
10 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-001
Subject: Assistant at Surgery Services
Effective Date: August 1, 2016 **End Date:**
Issue Date: July 1, 2020 **Revised Date:** April 2020
Date Reviewed: January 2020
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Medicare Advantage Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Applicable Claim Type	UB	<input type="checkbox"/>	1500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is respective to how the provider is contracted with The Plan. Provider contractual agreement terms in direct conflict with this Reimbursement Policy may supersede this Policy's direction and regional applicability.

An assistant at surgery is a physician or non-physician (NPP) who meets the Plan eligibility guidelines and actively assists the physician in charge of a case in performing a surgical procedure.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Commercial

The Plan will reimburse 16 percent of the fee schedule amount otherwise applicable for the global surgery, for assistant at surgery services performed by a physician and 13.6 percent for his/her employed physician assistant (PA), certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or certified nurse midwife (CNM).

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- Commercial Policy S-16: Assistant Surgery Eligibility Criteria
- Commercial Policy Z-10: Services of Physician Assistants

ADDITIONAL BILLING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:

- CMS online Manual, Pub. 100-04. Chapter 12

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

06/2018	Implementation
07/2020	Added 13.6 percent reimbursement for all commercial PA, CRNP, CNM

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



Bulletin Number: RP-001
Subject: Assistant at Surgery Services
Effective Date: August 1, 2016 **End Date:**
Issue Date: June 11, 2018
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market	PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-001
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Effective Date: August 1, 2016
Issue Date: July 1, 2020
Date Reviewed: January 2020
Source: Reimbursement Policy

End Date:
Revised Date: April 2020

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POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

06/2018	Implementation
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Issue Date: June 11, 2018
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