

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-025
Subject: Implantation of Subcutaneous Intravascular Catheter
Effective Date: January 29, 2018 **End Date:**
Issue Date: June 2, 2025 **Revised Date:** June 2025
Date Reviewed: May 2025
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 type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applicable Claim Type	UB	<input checked="" 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.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Surgical implantation of an intravascular catheter system is usually accomplished under local anesthesia. The catheter is inserted at the appropriate location and subcutaneously routed to the portal implantation site. The portal is implanted, connected with the catheter, and checked for patency and flow. Finally, the entire system is flushed with heparin to prevent thrombosis.

Implantation of a subcutaneous intravascular catheter is an eligible surgical procedure.

Subcutaneous intravascular catheter maintenance (e.g., flushing of a vascular access port) is eligible for reimbursement as a distinct and separate service.

Code 96523 represents catheter maintenance. Do not report code 96523 in conjunction with other services provided on the same day.

Port puncture (e.g. access) is considered part of a doctor's medical care and it is not eligible as a distinct and separate service when performed with medical services. If port puncture is reported on the same day as medical care, and the charges are itemized, reimbursement will only be made for the medical care. Payment for the medical care performed on the same date of service includes the allowance for the port puncture. When port puncture is performed independently, use procedure code 37799.

Note: The allowance for the removal of a central venous catheter (i.e. Hickman, Broviac) is included in the allowance for the placement of the catheter.

Modifier 25 and FT Exception

Modifier 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the port puncture.

Modifier FT may be reported to identify an evaluation and management (E/M) as an unrelated E/M visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another E/M visit.

When the 25 or FT modifier is reported, the patient's records must clearly document separately identifiable medical care was rendered.

DEFINITIONS:

Modifier	Definition
25	Significant, separately identifiable E&M service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day.
FT	Unrelated evaluation and management (E/M) visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another E/M visit. (Report when an E/M visit is furnished within the global period but is unrelated, or when one or more additional E/M visits furnished on the same are unrelated.

RELATED POLICIES:

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT
- RP-035: Correct Coding Guidelines

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

1 / 2018	Implementation
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT
6 / 2022	Removed S-52 Medical Policy Reference
7 / 2023	Administrative policy review with no changes in policy direction
6 / 2025	Administrative policy review with no changes in policy direction

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-025

Subject: Implantation of Subcutaneous Intravascular Catheter

Effective Date: January 29, 2018

End Date:

Issue Date: July 24, 2023

Revised Date: July 2023

Date Reviewed: July 2023

Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market

PA ☒ WV ☒ DE ☒ NY ☒

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market

PA ☐ WV ☐ DE ☐ NY ☐

Applicable Claim Type

UB ☒ 1500 ☒

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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.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Surgical implantation of an intravascular catheter system is usually accomplished under local anesthesia. The catheter is inserted at the appropriate location and subcutaneously routed to the portal implantation site. The portal is implanted, connected with the catheter, and checked for patency and flow. Finally, the entire system is flushed with heparin to prevent thrombosis.

Implantation of a subcutaneous intravascular catheter is an eligible surgical procedure.

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Note: The allowance for the removal of a central venous catheter (i.e. Hickman, Broviac) is included in the allowance for the placement of the catheter. See Medical Policy S-52 for more information.

Modifier 25 and FT Exception

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RELATED POLICIES:

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

- S-52: Postoperative Services Following Definitive Surgery

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT
- RP-035: Correct Coding Guidelines

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

1 / 2018	Implementation
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT
6 / 2022	Removed S-52 Medical Policy Reference
7 / 2023	Administrative policy review with no changes in policy direction

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin

HISTORY VERSION



Bulletin Number: RP-025
Subject: Implantation of Subcutaneous Intravascular Catheter
Effective Date: January 29, 2018 **End Date:**
Issue Date: July 11, 2022 **Revised Date:** June 2022
Date Reviewed: June 2022
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market

PA ☒ WV ☒ DE ☒ NY ☒

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market

PA ☐ WV ☐ DE ☐ NY ☐

Applicable Claim Type

UB ☒ 1500 ☒

➔ 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.

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RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

- S-52: Postoperative Services Following Definitive Surgery

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

1 / 2018	Implementation
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT
6 / 2022	Removed S-52 Medical Policy Reference

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-025
Subject: Implantation of Subcutaneous Intravascular Catheter
Effective Date: January 29, 2018 **End Date:**
Issue Date: January 10, 2022 **Revised Date:** January 2022
Date Reviewed: December 2021
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market

PA ☒ WV ☒ DE ☒ NY ☒

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market

PA ☐ WV ☐ DE ☐ NY ☐

Applicable Claim Type

UB ☒ 1500 ☒

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RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

- S-52: Postoperative Services Following Definitive Surgery

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

1 / 2018	Implementation
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



HISTORY VERSION

Bulletin Number: RP-025
Subject: Implantation of Subcutaneous Intravascular Catheter
Effective Date: January 29, 2018
Issue Date: November 1, 2021
Date Reviewed: July 2021
Source: Reimbursement Policy

End Date:
Revised Date: July 2021

Applicable Commercial Market

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market

Applicable Claim Type

PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	WV	<input type="checkbox"/>	DE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NY	<input type="checkbox"/>
UB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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.

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Note: The allowance for the removal of a central venous catheter (i.e. Hickman, Broviac) is included in the allowance for the placement of the catheter. See Medical Policy S-52 for more information.

Modifier 25 Exception

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RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

- S-52: Postoperative Services Following Definitive Surgery

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS and XU

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

1 / 2018	Implementation
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



Bulletin Number: RP-025
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Effective Date: January 29, 2018
Issue Date: January 29, 2018
End Date:
Source: Reimbursement Policy

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Applicable Medicare Advantage Market	PA <input type="checkbox"/>	WV <input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable Claim Type	UB <input checked="" 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 agreements supersede Reimbursement Policy direction and regional applicability.

Surgical implantation of an intravascular catheter system is usually accomplished under local anesthesia. The catheter is inserted at the appropriate location and subcutaneously routed to the portal implantation site. The portal is implanted, connected with the catheter, and checked for patency and flow. Finally, the entire system is flushed with heparin to prevent thrombosis.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

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Note: The allowance for the removal of a central venous catheter (i.e. Hickman, Broviac) is included in the allowance for the placement of the catheter. See Medical Policy S-52 for more information.

This policy position applies to all commercial and/or Medicare Advantage lines of business as indicated above. Reimbursement policies are intended only to establish general guidelines for reimbursement under Highmark plans. Highmark retains the right to review and update its reimbursement policy guidelines at its sole discretion.

Modifier 25 Exception

Modifier 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the port puncture. When the 25 modifier is reported, the patient's records must clearly document separately identifiable medical care was rendered.

RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Medical Policies for additional information:

- Commercial Policy S-52: Postoperative Services Following Definitive Surgery

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- Reimbursement Policy RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS and XU

HISTORY