

		Reimbursement Policy
Subject: Modifiers LT and RT: Left Side/Right Side Procedures		
Effective Date: 02/01/09	Committee Approval Obtained: 11/04/15	Section: Coding
<p>*****The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to https://mediproviders.anthem.com/nv.*****</p> <p>These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Healthcare Solutions (Anthem). The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence. You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with CPT codes, HCPCS codes and/or revenue codes. The codes denote the services and/or procedures performed. The billed code(s) are required to be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.</p> <p>If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Anthem may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reject or deny the claim. • Recover and/or recoup claim payment. <p>Anthem reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Anthem strives to minimize these variations.</p> <p>Anthem reserves the right to review and revise our policies periodically when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to this site.</p>		
Policy	<p>Anthem allows reimbursement for procedure codes appended with Modifier LT and/or RT when indicating the side of the body for which the item, supply or procedure will be used unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Reimbursement is based on 100% of the fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate of the procedure. Modifiers LT and RT are informational modifiers and, therefore, do not increase or decrease reimbursement of the procedure.</p> <p>It is inappropriate to use Modifier LT or Modifier RT when billing for</p>	

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	<p>bilateral procedures or with procedure codes containing “bilateral” or “unilateral or bilateral” in their description. Modifiers LT and RT do not indicate a bilateral service. Claims submitted with Modifier LT and RT appropriately indicating a surgical procedure was performed on both the left side and right side of the body are subject to multiple surgery rules.</p>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 02/01/18: Policy template updated • Biennial review approved 08/14/17 • Biennial review approved 11/04/15: Background section/policy template updated • Biennial review approved 11/18/13: Policy template updated • Biennial review approved 11/07/11 and effective 02/01/09: Background section/policy template updated; Policy language updated • Initial committee approval and effective 02/01/09
References and Research Materials	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State Medicaid • State contracts • Optum 360, 2017 edition
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifier Usage • Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement
Related Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None