Compliance Alert
SIU SOM Office of Compliance and Ethics
Modifier 25 Fact Sheet

Definition
Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management (E/M) service by the same physician* on the day of a procedure.

*Same physician - Medicare regulation states: "Physicians in the same group practice who are in the same specialty must bill and be paid as though they were a single physician."

All E/M services provided on the same day as a procedure are part of the procedure and Medicare only makes separate payment if an exception applies.

Appropriate Usage:
- Modifier 25 indicates that on the day of a procedure, the patient's condition required a significant, separately identifiable E/M service, above and beyond the usual pre and post-operative care associated with the procedure or service performed.
- Use Modifier 25 with the appropriate level of E/M service.
- The procedure performed has a global period listed on the Medicare Fee Schedule Relative Value File. This global period could be 000, 010, or 090 days.
- An E/M service may occur on the same day as a procedure and within the post-operative period of a previous procedure. Medicare allows payment when the documentation supports the 25 modifier and the 24 modifier (unrelated E/M during a post-operative period.)
- Use Modifier 25 in the rare circumstance of an E/M service the day before a major surgery that is not the decision for surgery and represents a significant, separately identifiable service.

Inappropriate Usage:
- A physician other than the physician* performing the procedure.
- Documentation shows the amount of work performed is consistent with that normally performed with the procedure.

The Following Statements are False:
- I can always use this modifier when I did not plan the procedure.
- I can always use this modifier when the diagnoses are different.
- I can never use this modifier when the diagnoses are the same.

Procedure Codes:
G0181-G0182 Care Plan Oversight Supervision
99201-99499 E/M all locations
Example:
The physician sees the patient for a condition requiring a significant and separately identifiable E/M service prior to removing a wart. See below for codes and proper placement of 25 modifier.

The physician appended modifier 25 to the wrong code.

Sources:
WPS Medicare Modifier 25 Fact Sheet

Questions regarding this Compliance Alert can be directed to:
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