



AmeriHealth Caritas[™]
District of Columbia

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers
Date: May 21, 2024
Subject: Optum Pre-Payment Deny Edit for Anatomical Modifiers

Dear Provider:

AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) follows policies and procedures outlined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support the use of anatomical modifiers. CMS has identified a set of anatomical modifiers to facilitate correct coding for claims processing. These policies are intended to control improper coding that leads to incorrect payment and or claim denials.

AmeriHealth Caritas DC is contracted with OptumInsight, Inc. (“Optum”) for payment integrity services, which include the periodic review of claims and related documentation to validate coding practices, payment accuracy, regulatory compliance, and adherence to our payment policies, utilization standards, and provider contract requirements.

Beginning July 22, 2024, AmeriHealth Caritas DC via Optum will implement a denial edit for providers when they do not append the appropriate anatomical modifier to a procedure code. Providers must follow standard published coding guidelines which include the use of the appropriate anatomical modifier. Failure to do so will result in claim denials indicating a required modifier was missing from the claim line. Providers will be expected to rebill with appropriate coding.

Reminder:

- AmeriHealth Caritas DC has taken CPT and HCPCS Level II guidelines supporting the use of anatomic-specific modifiers to develop policies which validate the area or part of the body on which a procedure is performed.
- Procedure codes that do not specify right or left require an anatomical modifier. If an anatomical modifier is necessary to differentiate right or left and is not appended, the claim will be denied.
- Likewise, if a modifier is appended to a procedure code that does not match the appropriate anatomical site, the claim will be denied.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive, email DCprovidernetwork@amerihealthcaritasdc.com, or call Provider Services at 202-408-2237.

Sincerely,
AmeriHealth Caritas DC