

		<b>Reimbursement Policy</b>
<b>Subject: Assistant at Surgery (Modifiers 80/81/82/AS)</b>		
Effective Date: <b>07/01/13</b>	Committee Approval Obtained: <b>04/03/17</b>	Section: <b>Coding</b>
<p>*****The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider websites. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <a href="http://www.simplyhealthcareplans.com/provider">www.simplyhealthcareplans.com/provider</a> or <a href="http://www.clearhealthalliance.com/provider">www.clearhealthalliance.com/provider</a>.*****</p> <p>These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. and Clear Health Alliance (Simply) if the service is covered by a member’s benefit plan. 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, Simply may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reject or deny the claim.</li> <li>• Recover and/or recoup claim payment.</li> </ul> <p>Simply 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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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, Simply strives to minimize these variations.</p> <p>Simply 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>		
<b>Policy</b>	Simply allows reimbursement for one assistant surgeon when eligible procedures are billed with Modifier 80 as applicable unless otherwise noted by provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.	

	<p>Simply uses code editing software to process claims billed for assistant at surgery. If an applicable modifier is not billed appropriately, the procedure may be denied. Simply does not allow reimbursement for Modifiers 81, 82 or AS.</p> <p>When multiple procedures are performed where only some of the procedures are eligible for assistant at surgery reimbursement, only assistant at surgery services for the eligible procedures will be considered for reimbursement. The same multiple-procedure fee reductions and clinical edits apply to both the assistant at surgery and the primary surgeon.</p> <p>The assistant at surgery should not report procedure codes different from the procedure codes reported by the primary surgeon, <b>except</b> if the primary surgeon bills an OB global code; then, the assistant at surgery would bill the specific surgery code with the appropriate modifier.</p> <p>Reimbursement is based on 16% of the allowable fee for the primary surgeon. Reimbursement rate for advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant and registered nurse first assistant is 12.8%.</p>
<p><b>History</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy template updated <b>12/01/18</b></li> <li>• Biennial review approved <b>04/03/17</b>: Policy language updated</li> <li>• Biennial review approved <b>11/04/15</b>: Policy language updated</li> <li>• Biennial review approved and effective date <b>07/01/13</b>: Policy template updated</li> <li>• Biennial review approved <b>06/06/11</b> and effective <b>12/07/11</b>: Policy language updated; Policy template updated</li> <li>• Review approved <b>06/01/09</b>: Policy language updated</li> <li>• Review approved <b>05/30/07</b>: Policy language updated</li> <li>• Initial review approval effective <b>03/03/06</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>References and Research Materials</b></p>	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS</li> <li>• State Medicaid</li> <li>• State contracts</li> <li>• Optum 360, 2016 edition</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Modifier 80</b>: denotes an assistant at surgery providing full assistance to the primary surgeon</li> <li>• <b>General Reimbursement Policy Definitions</b></li> </ul>

<b>Related Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code and Clinical Editing Guidelines</li><li>• Modifier Usage</li></ul>
<b>Related Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>