

# Educational Sheet for Modifier 25

## Modifier 25

According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI): the CPT® Manual defines modifier 25 as a “Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service.” Modifier 25 may be appended to an evaluation and management (E&M) CPT® code to indicate that the E&M service is significant and separately identifiable from other services reported on the same date of service. The E&M service may be related to the same or different diagnosis as the other procedure(s).

Modifier 25 may be appended to E&M services reported with minor surgical procedures (with global periods of 000 or 010 days) or procedures not covered by Global Surgery Rules (with a global indicator of XXX). Since minor surgical procedures and XXX procedures include pre- procedure, intra-procedure, and post procedure work inherent in the procedure, the provider/supplier shall not report an E&M service for this work. Furthermore, Medicare Global Surgery Rules prevent the reporting of a separate E&M service for the work associated with the decision to perform a minor surgical procedure regardless of whether the patient is a new or established patient.

The AMA CPT® Manual revised the code descriptions for codes 99202–99215 as of January 1, 2021, to allow the office visit to be reported based on time or medical decision making (MDM). However, modifier 25 criteria (significant and separate E/M service) still apply to codes 99202–99215.

## Clinical Examples

- **Pay Example:** An established patient presents for a repeat joint injection and a new complaint. An E/M service would be appropriate to report as the physician would be evaluating a significant and separate condition, in addition to the joint injection.
- **Deny Example:** An established patient presents for a routine/scheduled joint injection. An E/M service would not be appropriate as the pre/intra/post work is included in the joint injection and the components of a separate and significant E/M service were not met.

## Additional References

*NCCI Policy Manual*