

<b>Reimbursement Guide Name:</b>	<b>Assistant at Surgery Services</b>	<b>Reimbursement Guide #:</b>	<b>RG-102</b>
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<b>Reimbursement Guide Information</b>	
<b>Owner Department:</b>	Risk Adjustment and Medical Economics
<b>Owner:</b>	Code Review Program Manager
<b>Affected Departments:</b>	
<b>Reimbursement Guide Applies To:</b>	All product lines
<b>Electronic Signature/Date:</b>	No Users

## Purpose of the Reimbursement Guide

This policy is intended to define assist at surgery services, provide clarification of which services are and are not eligible for reimbursement, and specify the criteria and requirements which must be met. This policy further describes how Health Alliance and Health Alliance Northwest reimburse assist at surgery services.

## Statement of the Reimbursement Guide

An Assistant-at-Surgery actively assists the Physician performing a surgical procedure. Reimbursement for Assistant-at-Surgery services, when reported by the Same Individual Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional, is based on whether the Assistant-at-Surgery is a Physician (designated by modifiers 80, 81 or 82) or another Qualified Health Care Professional (designated by modifier AS) acting as the surgical assistant. The services of only one Assistant-at-Surgery are reimbursable for each procedure on the Assistant-at-Surgery Eligible List.

No exceptions to this policy are made for teaching hospitals or hospital bylaws.

## Procedure

The Assistant-at-Surgery Eligible List is developed based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File (NPFS) payment policy indicators. All codes in the NPFS with the payment code indicator "2" for "Assistant-at-Surgery" are considered by HA to be reimbursable for Assistant-at-Surgery services, as indicated by an assistant surgeon modifier (80, 81, 82, or AS).

Per CMS claims processing manual guidelines, surgical technicians are not listed as a health care practitioner that can report modifier AS. The services of a surgical technician assisting at surgery are included in the reimbursement to the facility and not separately reimbursable.

HA will not reimburse independently submitted services by a non-contracted, health care practitioner (other than a Physician or Qualified Health Care Professional) who is seeking reimbursement for services using an assistant surgeon modifier unless a state mandate exists that requires reimbursement, in which case they will be reimbursed pursuant to this policy. For information about the health care-related mandates and laws in your state, contact the appropriate federal or state legislative office.

## References

1. *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Relative Value Files*

## History

<b>Created Date:</b>	02/27/2023
<b>Effective Date:</b>	01/01/2020
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	Not Set
<b>Revision Date:</b>	