Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Modifier 91**	
Policy Number: **G-06020**	Policy Section: **Coding**
Last Approval Date: **12/27/2022**	Effective Date: **01/01/2021**

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of our reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to **https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare**. ****

Disclaimer

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) if the service is covered for Healthy Blue + Medicare[SM] (HMO D-SNP). 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 participating providers and facilities; a noncontracting provider who accepts Medicare assignment will be reimbursed for services according to the original Medicare reimbursement rates.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage 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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage strives to minimize these variations.

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage 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 our provider website.

https://www.bluecrossnc.com/provider-home

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Policy

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement of claims for repeat clinical diagnostic laboratory tests appended with Modifier 91 unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Reimbursement is based on 100% of the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate of the clinical diagnostic laboratory test billed with Modifier 91.

Medical documentation may be requested to support the use of Modifier 91. It is inappropriate to use Modifier 91 when only a single test result is required.

Failure to use the modifier appropriately may result in denial of the repeated laboratory test as a duplicate service.

Related Coding

Standard correct coding applies

Policy History

12/27/2022	Review approved: removed the definition from the name of policy; policy template updated
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- CMS
- Optum EncoderPro 2022
- State contract

Definitions

Modifier 91	Used to indicate a clinical diagnostic laboratory test was repeated on the same day for the same member to obtain multiple test results. Modifier 91 may not be used in the following situations: • To repeat a test to confirm initial results • Because there was a problem with the specimen or equipment when performing the initial test • When other code(s) describe a series of test results
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

Related Policies and Materials

Duplicate or Subsequent Services on the Same Date of Service
Modifier Usage