

# Team Surgery

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0046.SCEX

Recent review date: 01/2025

Next review date: 01/2026

*First Choice Next reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. First Choice Next may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

The policy outlines First Choice Next reimbursement guidelines for Team Surgery. Select complex surgical procedures require collaboration by three or more physicians with diverse areas of expertise, functioning as a surgical team. First Choice Next claim reimbursement logic aligns with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Professional Fee Schedule (PFS) for Team Surgery.

## Exceptions

N/A

## Reimbursement Guidelines

Select complex surgical procedures require collaboration by three or more physicians, each with a different specialty, functioning as a surgical team. For appropriate reimbursement, Team Surgery is reported by individual providers with modifier 66 appended to the same procedure code.

Consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Professional Fee Schedule (PFS), all codes in the CMS PFS with Team Surgery status code indicators "1" or "2" are considered by First Choice Next to be eligible for reimbursement. Appropriate reimbursement for Team Surgery requires each team surgeon to report the same CPT code(s) with modifier 66 appended to procedures performed under the Team Surgery concept.

Definitions

Team Surgery — Modifier 66

Under some circumstances, highly complex procedures (requiring the concomitant services of several physicians or other qualified health care professionals, often of different specialties, plus other highly skilled, specially trained personnel, various types of complex equipment) are carried out under the "surgical team" concept. Such circumstances may be identified by each participating individual with the addition of modifier 66 to the basic procedure number used for reporting services. (CPT Appendix A)

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
- III. International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), and associated publications and services.
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Professional Fee Schedule (PFS)  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/physician-fee-schedule/search/overview>.

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 01/2025 | Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval   |
| 11/2024 | Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No major updates</li></ul>  |
| 04/2024 | Revised preamble  |
| 01/2024 | Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval   |
| 12/2023 | Annual Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update Edit Sources</li></ul>   |
| 08/2023 | Removal of policy implemented by First Choice Next from Policy History section  |
| 01/2023 | Template revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preamble revised</li><li>Applicable Claim Types table removed</li><li>Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>Associated Policies section added</li></ul> |