



Optum Alaska
205 East Benson Boulevard
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Alaska Medicaid Provider Update

Modifier XE, XP, and XU Guidance

July 1, 2021

Effective for claims billed with dates of service on and after 7/1/2021, X modifiers are configured in the Optum claims system for correct claim reporting.

X modifiers are reported to indicate separate services that are medically necessary to occur on the same date of service as another service.

X modifier definitions:

XE Modifier – Separate encounter, service is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter

XP Modifier – Separate practitioner, service is distinct because it was performed by a separate provider

XU Modifier – Unusual non-overlapping service, the service is distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service

Reminder:

All documentation must clearly indicate the medical necessity for the additional service(s) and the amounts of the services.

In the Optum claims system, modifier 59 does not override National Correct Coding Initiative edits for:

1. More than one service on the same date of service, and
2. Multiple units of service on the same date of service.

Reference:

Description and Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established HCPCS modifiers including XE, XP, and XU to provide greater reporting specificity in situations where modifier 59 was previously reported and should be used in lieu of modifier 59.

X Modifiers are reported to indicate separate services that are medically necessary to occur concurrently of other service that would not normally be reported at the same time or on the same day. X Modifiers should not be reported with evaluation and management (E/M) services.

Incorrect Use

- X modifier appended to an E/M service
- Use of X when another modifier is more appropriate
- Use of X to override or bypass NCCI, PTP, or MUE edit without sufficient documentation to support the need of the additional service(s)

Example of Correct use:

XP modifier- Patient sees Dr. Smith in the morning for a group therapy session, Dr. Jones sees the patient in the afternoon in a separate group therapy session. Dr Smith will report 90853, Dr Jones will report 90853 -XP.