

## Modifiers Resource Guide 2022

Modifiers are used with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to indicate that a procedure or service has been modified in some way. Modifiers typically describe things like multiple procedures, two surgeons, use of an assistant surgeon, and other things that may increase or decrease the provided service in some way. This typically allows for adjudication of the claim without the need for additional supporting documentation. The list below outlines modifiers that are often used in spine procedures:

| Modifier        | Description   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>-50</b>      | <b>Bilateral Procedure</b>  |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Laminectomy is performed on both the left and right side, at the same operative setting (-LT or -RT may be used at carrier discretion)</i> |
| <b>-51</b>      | <b>Multiple Procedures</b>  |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Spine fusion performed with a laminectomy at a different spine level, -51 is appended with additional procedure(s)</i>                     |
| <b>-52</b>      | <b>Reduced Services</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Physician planned to do three level fusion, once reviewing the body anatomy, decided to only perform two level</i>                         |
| <b>-53</b>      | <b>Discontinued Procedure</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Spine fusion is scheduled, and procedure started, but is then discontinued due to elevated blood pressure in the patient</i>               |
| <b>-54</b>      | <b>Surgical Care Only</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Patient has surgery while visiting from out of town, follow up care will be provided later</i>   |
| <b>-55</b>      | <b>Postoperative Management Only</b>  |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Physician provides post-operative care after patient had emergency procedure elsewhere</i>   |
| <b>-59</b>      | <b>Distinct Procedural Service</b>  |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Spine fusion is performed at the lumbar level, and another fusion is performed at the sacral level at the same operative session</i>       |
| <b>-62</b>      | <b>Two Surgeons</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>An access surgeon works with a spine surgeon on an ALIF, both surgeons bill the same service/code(s), both with -62 modifiers</i>          |
| <b>-LT</b>      | <b>Left side (used to identify procedures performed on left side of the body)</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Laminectomy, left side only</i>  |
| <b>-RT</b>      | <b>Right side (used to identify procedures performed on right side of the body)</b>   |
| <i>Example:</i> | <i>Foraminotomy, right side only</i>  |