



American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives®

Fact Sheet: Comanagement - Completing the CMS 1500 Form or Electronic Equivalent

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As long as the surgeon agrees, patients may choose to return to their non-surgical ophthalmologist or optometrist for postoperative care. The appropriate modifiers to include in the claim form are -54 Surgical care only and -55 Postoperative management only. If the payer does not recognize comanagement or modifiers -54 and -55, then the surgeon is responsible for providing care during the global period.

Scenario 1: Patient returns to their non-surgical ophthalmologist on postop day 1.

- Patient's decision is based on more convenient driving distance.
- Dr. Jones, the surgeon, performs cataract surgery on March 2 and submits 66984 -54 -RT.
- Dr. Smith provides postoperative care for all but the first postop date beginning March 2.

Entries by Surgeon vs. Postop Provider

CLAIM FORM ITEMS	ENTRIES BY THE SURGEON (DR. JONES)	ENTRIES BY THE POSTOP PROVIDER (DR. SMITH)
Item 19		03/02/22 - 5/31/22
Item 24a	03/02/22	03/02/22
Item 24d	66984 -54 -RT	66984 -55 -RT
Item 24f	Surgical charge	Postoperative charge
Item 24g	1	1

Scenario 2: Patient transfers to their non-surgical ophthalmologist or optometrist on postop day 7.

Should Dr. Jones (surgeon) provide 7 days of postoperative care, their claim submission would reflect the information below.

Entries by Surgeon vs. Postop Provider

CLAIM FORM ITEMS	ENTRIES BY THE SURGEON (DR. JONES)	ENTRIES BY THE POSTOP PROVIDER (DR. SMITH)
Item 19		03/10/22 - 05/31/22
Item 24a	03/02/22	03/02/22
Item 24d	66984 -54 -RT	66984 -55 -RT
Item 24f	Surgical charge	Prorated fee
Item 24g	1	1
CLAIM FORM ITEMS	ENTRIES BY THE SURGEON (DR. JONES)	ENTRIES BY THE POSTOP PROVIDER (DR. SMITH)
Item 1	3/03/22 - 3/09/22	
Item 24a	3/02/22	
Item 24d	66984 -55 -RT	
Item 24f	Prorated fee	
Item 24g	1	

Scenario 3: Patient in Scenario 1 returns to the surgeon after postop day 14 for two visits then returns to Dr. Smith.

CLAIM FORM ITEMS	ENTRIES BY THE SURGEON (DR. JONES)	ENTRIES BY THE POSTOP PROVIDER (DR. SMITH)
Item 19		03/10/22 - 3/16/22, 4/1/22 - 5/31/22
Item 24a	03/02/22	03/02/2022
Item 24d	66984 -54 -RT	66984 -55 -RT
Item 24f	Surgical charge	Prorated fee
Item 24g	1	1
CLAIM FORM ITEMS	ENTRIES BY THE SURGEON (DR. JONES)	ENTRIES BY THE POSTOP PROVIDER (DR. SMITH)
Item 1	3/03/2022 - 3/9/2022. 3/17/22 - 3/31/22	
Item 24a	3/02/22	
Item 24d	66984 -55 -RT	
Item 24f	Prorated fee	
Item 24g	1	

At the time of this publication, there is litigation of improper/illegal co-management in these areas:

- Inappropriate comanagement arrangements
- Federal/State Anti-Kickback Statute
- Fee-splitting
- Negligent referral
- Patient abandonment