

Article - Billing and Coding: Use of Laterality Modifiers (A56869)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATES
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10111 - MAC A	J - J	Alabama
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10112 - MAC B	J - J	Alabama
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10211 - MAC A	J - J	Georgia
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10212 - MAC B	J - J	Georgia
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10311 - MAC A	J - J	Tennessee
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10312 - MAC B	J - J	Tennessee
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11201 - MAC A	J - M	South Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11202 - MAC B	J - M	South Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11301 - MAC A	J - M	Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11302 - MAC B	J - M	Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11401 - MAC A	J - M	West Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11402 - MAC B	J - M	West Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11501 - MAC A	J - M	North Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11502 - MAC B	J - M	North Carolina

Article Information

General Information

Article ID

A56869

Article Title

Billing and Coding: Use of Laterality Modifiers

Article Type

Billing and Coding

Original Effective Date

09/09/2019

Revision Effective Date**AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement**

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2021 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. Applicable FARS/HHSARS apply.

Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.

Current Dental Terminology © 2021 American Dental Association. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2013 - 2021, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced by CMS with permission. No portion of the American Hospital Association (AHA) copyrighted materials contained within this

01/01/2022

Revision Ending Date

N/A

Retirement Date

N/A

publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA. AHA copyrighted materials including the UB-04 codes and descriptions may not be removed, copied, or utilized within any software, product, service, solution or derivative work without the written consent of the AHA. If an entity wishes to utilize any AHA materials, please contact the AHA at 312-893-6816. Making copies or utilizing the content of the UB-04 Manual, including the codes and/or descriptions, for internal purposes, resale and/or to be used in any product or publication; creating any modified or derivative work of the UB-04 Manual and/or codes and descriptions; and/or making any commercial use of UB-04 Manual or any portion thereof, including the codes and/or descriptions, is only authorized with an express license from the American Hospital Association. To license the electronic data file of UB-04 Data Specifications, contact Tim Carlson at (312) 893-6816. You may also contact us at ub04@aha.org.

CMS National Coverage Policy

N/A

Article Guidance

Article Text

In order to facilitate claims processing and avoid denials for duplicate claims, claims which contain CPT®/HCPCS codes describing services performed on anatomic structures that can be distinguished as left or right require laterality modifiers. This article is not a comprehensive listing of all such codes; however, all claims involving the CPT® codes included in this article will be rejected unless the appropriate laterality modifiers (-RT; -LT) for unilateral procedures are reported. Bilateral procedures should be indicated by the appropriate modifier for bilateral procedures. CPT® codes that are designated in their description as "unilateral or bilateral" do not require additional laterality modifiers.

Claim lines for CPT®/HCPCS codes requiring use of the RT and LT modifiers, submitted without the RT and/or LT modifiers or with the RT/LT on a single claim line will be rejected as incorrect coding.

Coding Information

CPT/HCPCS Codes

Group 1 Paragraph:

N/A

Group 1 Codes: (31 Codes)

CODE	DESCRIPTION
15820	BLEPHAROPLASTY, LOWER EYELID;
15821	BLEPHAROPLASTY, LOWER EYELID; WITH EXTENSIVE HERNIATED FAT PAD
15822	BLEPHAROPLASTY, UPPER EYELID;
15823	BLEPHAROPLASTY, UPPER EYELID; WITH EXCESSIVE SKIN WEIGHTING DOWN LID
20610	ARTHROCENTESIS, ASPIRATION AND/OR INJECTION, MAJOR JOINT OR BURSA (EG, SHOULDER, HIP, KNEE, SUBACROMIAL BURSA); WITHOUT ULTRASOUND

CODE	DESCRIPTION
	GUIDANCE
20611	ARTHROCENTESIS, ASPIRATION AND/OR INJECTION, MAJOR JOINT OR BURSA (EG, SHOULDER, HIP, KNEE, SUBACROMIAL BURSA); WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, WITH PERMANENT RECORDING AND REPORTING
66940	REMOVAL OF LENS MATERIAL; EXTRACAPSULAR (OTHER THAN 66840, 66850, 66852)
66982	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1-STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION), COMPLEX, REQUIRING DEVICES OR TECHNIQUES NOT GENERALLY USED IN ROUTINE CATARACT SURGERY (EG, IRIS EXPANSION DEVICE, SUTURE SUPPORT FOR INTRAOCULAR LENS, OR PRIMARY POSTERIOR CAPSULORRHESIS) OR PERFORMED ON PATIENTS IN THE AMBLYOGENIC DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE; WITHOUT ENDOSCOPIC CYCLOPHOTOCOAGULATION
66983	INTRACAPSULAR CATARACT EXTRACTION WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1 STAGE PROCEDURE)
66984	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1 STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION); WITHOUT ENDOSCOPIC CYCLOPHOTOCOAGULATION
66987	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1-STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION), COMPLEX, REQUIRING DEVICES OR TECHNIQUES NOT GENERALLY USED IN ROUTINE CATARACT SURGERY (EG, IRIS EXPANSION DEVICE, SUTURE SUPPORT FOR INTRAOCULAR LENS, OR PRIMARY POSTERIOR CAPSULORRHESIS) OR PERFORMED ON PATIENTS IN THE AMBLYOGENIC DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE; WITH ENDOSCOPIC CYCLOPHOTOCOAGULATION
66988	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1 STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION); WITH ENDOSCOPIC CYCLOPHOTOCOAGULATION
66989	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1-STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION), COMPLEX, REQUIRING DEVICES OR TECHNIQUES NOT GENERALLY USED IN ROUTINE CATARACT SURGERY (EG, IRIS EXPANSION DEVICE, SUTURE SUPPORT FOR INTRAOCULAR LENS, OR PRIMARY POSTERIOR CAPSULORRHESIS) OR PERFORMED ON PATIENTS IN THE AMBLYOGENIC DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE; WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR (EG, TRABECULAR MESHWORK, SUPRACILIARY, SUPRACHOROIDAL) ANTERIOR SEGMENT AQUEOUS DRAINAGE DEVICE, WITHOUT EXTRAOCULAR RESERVOIR,

CODE	DESCRIPTION
	INTERNAL APPROACH, ONE OR MORE
66991	EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT REMOVAL WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR LENS PROSTHESIS (1 STAGE PROCEDURE), MANUAL OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUE (EG, IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION OR PHACOEMULSIFICATION); WITH INSERTION OF INTRAOCULAR (EG, TRABECULAR MESHWORK, SUPRACILIARY, SUPRACHOROIDAL) ANTERIOR SEGMENT AQUEOUS DRAINAGE DEVICE, WITHOUT EXTRAOCULAR RESERVOIR, INTERNAL APPROACH, ONE OR MORE
67027	IMPLANTATION OF INTRAVITREAL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM (EG, GANCICLOVIR IMPLANT), INCLUDES CONCOMITANT REMOVAL OF VITREOUS
67028	INTRAVITREAL INJECTION OF A PHARMACOLOGIC AGENT (SEPARATE PROCEDURE)
67900	REPAIR OF BROW PTOSIS (SUPRACILIARY, MID-FOREHEAD OR CORONAL APPROACH)
67901	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; FRONTALIS MUSCLE TECHNIQUE WITH SUTURE OR OTHER MATERIAL (EG, BANKED FASCIA)
67902	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; FRONTALIS MUSCLE TECHNIQUE WITH AUTOLOGOUS FASCIAL SLING (INCLUDES OBTAINING FASCIA)
67903	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; (TARSO) LEVATOR RESECTION OR ADVANCEMENT, INTERNAL APPROACH
67904	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; (TARSO) LEVATOR RESECTION OR ADVANCEMENT, EXTERNAL APPROACH
67906	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; SUPERIOR RECTUS TECHNIQUE WITH FASCIAL SLING (INCLUDES OBTAINING FASCIA)
67908	REPAIR OF BLEPHAROPTOSIS; CONJUNCTIVO-TARSO-MULLER'S MUSCLE-LEVATOR RESECTION (EG, FASANELLA-SERVAT TYPE)
67917	REPAIR OF ECTROPION; EXTENSIVE (EG, TARSAL STRIP OPERATIONS)
67921	REPAIR OF ENTROPION; SUTURE
67922	REPAIR OF ENTROPION; THERMOCAUTERIZATION
67923	REPAIR OF ENTROPION; EXCISION TARSAL WEDGE
68841	INSERTION OF DRUG-ELUTING IMPLANT, INCLUDING PUNCTAL DILATION WHEN PERFORMED, INTO LACRIMAL CANALICULUS, EACH
0449T	INSERTION OF AQUEOUS DRAINAGE DEVICE, WITHOUT EXTRAOCULAR RESERVOIR, INTERNAL APPROACH, INTO THE SUBCONJUNCTIVAL SPACE; INITIAL DEVICE
0671T	INSERTION OF ANTERIOR SEGMENT AQUEOUS DRAINAGE DEVICE INTO THE TRABECULAR MESHWORK, WITHOUT EXTERNAL RESERVOIR, AND WITHOUT CONCOMITANT CATARACT REMOVAL, ONE OR MORE
0699T	INJECTION, POSTERIOR CHAMBER OF EYE, MEDICATION

Group 2 Paragraph:

All claims submitted with the following HCPCS codes which represent replacements for external components necessary for the function of cochlear implants must identify the side of the body where the existing cochlear implant is located. Otherwise the initial replacement part claim and all subsequent replacement part claims for an individual beneficiary will be rejected.

Group 2 Codes: (4 Codes)

CODE	DESCRIPTION
L8624	LITHIUM ION BATTERY FOR USE WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT OR AUDITORY OSSEOINTEGRATED DEVICE SPEECH PROCESSOR, EAR LEVEL, REPLACEMENT, EACH
L8627	COCHLEAR IMPLANT, EXTERNAL SPEECH PROCESSOR, COMPONENT, REPLACEMENT
L8628	COCHLEAR IMPLANT, EXTERNAL CONTROLLER COMPONENT, REPLACEMENT
L8629	TRANSMITTING COIL AND CABLE, INTEGRATED, FOR USE WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT DEVICE, REPLACEMENT

CPT/HCPCS Modifiers**Group 1 Paragraph:**

N/A

Group 1 Codes: (2 Codes)

CODE	DESCRIPTION
LT	LEFT SIDE (USED TO IDENTIFY PROCEDURES PERFORMED ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BODY)
RT	RIGHT SIDE (USED TO IDENTIFY PROCEDURES PERFORMED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BODY)

ICD-10-CM Codes that Support Medical Necessity

N/A

ICD-10-CM Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

N/A

ICD-10-PCS Codes

N/A

Additional ICD-10 Information

N/A

Bill Type Codes

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the article does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

Revenue Codes

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the article, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

Other Coding Information

N/A

Revision History Information

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
01/01/2022	R3	Under CPT/HCPCS Codes Group 1: Codes deleted 0191T and added 66989, 66991, 68841, 0671T and 0699T. This revision is due to the 2022 Annual CPT [®] /HCPCS Code Update and becomes effective on 1/1/2022.
01/01/2020	R2	Under CPT/HCPCS Codes Group 1: Codes added CPT [®] codes 66987 and 66988. The code descriptions were revised for CPT [®] codes 66982 and 66984. This revision is due to the Annual CPT [®] /HCPCS Code Update and becomes effective on 1/1/2020.
10/03/2019	R1	Under CPT/HCPCS Modifiers added modifiers LT and RT.

Associated Documents

Related Local Coverage Documents

N/A

Related National Coverage Documents

N/A

Statutory Requirements URLs

N/A

Rules and Regulations URLs

N/A

CMS Manual Explanations URLs

N/A

Other URLs

N/A

Public Versions

UPDATED ON	EFFECTIVE DATES	STATUS
12/27/2021	01/01/2022 - N/A	Currently in Effect (This Version)
12/16/2019	01/01/2020 - 12/31/2021	Superseded

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.

Keywords

N/A