



In January 2014, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama implemented changes to guidelines for filing and processing of anesthesia claims. Modifiers are required to reflect whether a service was personally performed by the anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) or whether the service was performed by the CRNA under the medical direction of an anesthesiologist. The modifier descriptions are outlined below.

Modifier	Description
AA	Anesthesia services performed personally by the anesthesiologist
AD	Medical supervision of five or more concurrent anesthesia procedures by an anesthesiologist (HCPCS modifier description: Medical supervision by a physician: more than 4 concurrent anesthesia procedures)
QK	Medical direction (by anesthesiologist) of two, three or four concurrent procedures by qualified personnel (HCPCS modifier description: Medical direction of 2, 3, or 4 concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals.)
QY	Medical direction of one CRNA/AA by an anesthesiologist (HCPCS modifier description: Medical direction of one qualified nonphysician anesthetist by an anesthesiologist.)

Required Modifiers Used by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) include:

Modifier	Description
QX	CRNA/AA service with medical direction by an anesthesiologist. (Per HCPCS manual, Appendix 2 – Modifiers: CRNA service with medical direction by a physician.)
QZ	CRNA service without medical direction by an anesthesiologist. (Per HCPCS manual Appendix 2 – Modifiers: CRNA service: without medical direction by a physician.)

Required Modifier Used by Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs):

Modifier	Description
QX	AA service with medical direction by an anesthesiologist. (Per HCPCS manual, Appendix 2 – Modifiers: AA service with medical direction by a physician.)

When services are “personally performed” by an anesthesiologist (modifier AA) or a CRNA (Modifier QZ), there should not be a second claim billed by another anesthesiologist or CRNA with a modifier indicating “medical direction of” an Anesthesiologist for a procedure on same patient on the same day. Practitioners may work under the same or different Tax IDs. In either scenario, it is the responsibility of each practitioner to file correctly for the services provided.

HCPCS – Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System