



Payment Guideline: Assistant Surgeon Not Applicable

Read First

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING
WELLFLEET PAYMENT GUIDELINES**

This Payment Guideline serves as notice to health care providers of Wellfleet’s payment practices. Health providers are advised to consult their own network provider agreement for determining specific payment policies.

Wellfleet may use reasonable discretion in applying these Payment Guidelines to health care services provided to its enrollees. This Payment Guideline does not address all the issues related to reimbursement for health care services. Other factors impacting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this Payment Guideline. These factors may include, but are not limited to, legislative mandates, the type of provider arrangement and the terms of that agreement, and/or the member’s benefit coverage document.

Wellfleet may modify this Payment Guideline at any time to comply with changes in national standards, changes in best practices, or other factors that may impact this payment Guideline. Should this Payment Guideline be revised, Wellfleet shall publish a new version of this Payment Guideline. Wellfleet encourages providers to keep current with any CPT or HCPCS updates as well as industry standards related to the services described in this Payment Guideline.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Wellfleet reserves the right to request supporting documentation for claims submitted, including provider records.

**Applicable
Plans**

- Student Health Insurance (for policies issued or renewing after May 2019)
 - Fully Insured
 - Excluding policies issued in the following states: N/A
 - Excluding ISO
 - Self-Funded
 - Excluding policies issued by the following schools: N/A
- Student Sports
 - Fully Insured; for policies issued by the following carriers:
 - AIG
 - Axis



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- Commercial Casualty Insurance Company/Wellfleet Insurance
- Self-Funded
 - Excluding policies issued by the following schools: N/A
- Fully Insured Student Accident; for policies issued by the following carriers:
 - AIG
 - Axis
 - Commercial Casualty Insurance Company/Wellfleet Insurance
- Self-Funded Employer Insurance
 - Excluding policies issued by the following employers: N/A

Purpose

Wellfleet follows the CMS Guidelines 20.4.3 – Assistant at Surgery Services (Rev. 1, 10-03-03) BS-15044 that states: Carriers may not pay assistants at surgery for surgical procedures in which a physician is used as an assistant at surgery in fewer than 5% of the cases for that procedure nationally. In addition physicians are prohibited from billing for assistant at surgery services subject to the assistant at surgery limitations.

Wellfleet also took into consideration from the American College of Surgeon’s Annual Report published as a result of a committee of its members opinions on the current CMS list.

See Attachment 1 for Wellfleet’s Assistant Surgeon List.

Scope

All surgeon bills which contain the use of Modifiers 80, 81, 82 or AS.

Definitions

- Medicare publishes a list of procedures and classifies payment indicators for each:

MPFS Payment Indicators

Indicator 0—Payment restriction for assistants at surgery applies to this procedure. Supporting documentation (as described earlier) may be submitted on appeal. **(Sometimes)**

Indicator 1—Statutory payment restriction for assistants at surgery applies to this procedure. Assistants at surgery will not be paid.**(Almost Never)**

Indicator 2—Payment restriction for assistants at surgery does not apply to this procedure. Assistants at surgery may be paid.**(Almost always)**

Indicator 9—Concept does not apply (the most likely explanation is that the procedure is not a surgery).

Guidelines

Wellfleet will pay for assistant surgeons when appropriate. Based on the following categories:

WELLFLEET ASSISTANT SURGEON CATEGORIES

Almost Always Allowed	=	Pay
Other	=	Normal Claim Process
Sometimes Allowed	=	Deny for Medical Records**
Almost Never Allowed	=	Deny as Assistant Surgeon Not appropriate*

The operative report must contain information what the assistant actually does and an indication of why there is a need for an assistant.

Attachments

1. Wellfleet Assistant Surgeon List:
<https://wellfleetstudent.com/providers/> or
<https://wellfleetworkplace.com/providers/>



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**Change
History**

Version	Effective Date	Next Review Date
1.0	6/1/2020	6/1/2021
2.0	6/1/2021	6/1/2022
