



Subject: Modifier 91 Guideline

Revision Date: 7/24

POLICY

Modifier 91 is used to report repeat laboratory tests or studies performed on the same day on the same patient.

DEFINITIONS

CPT Modifier 91 is defined as “Repeat clinical diagnostic laboratory test”.

APPLICABILITY

The Health Plan intends for the above claim edit to apply to both professional and facility claims.

PROCEDURE

Modifier 91 is added only when additional test results are to be obtained subsequent to the initial administration or performance of the test(s) on the same day. It is not used when laboratory tests or studies are simply rerun because of specimen or equipment error or malfunction. Nor is it to be used when a test is repeated to confirm initial test results. Further, based on the definition of modifier 91, it should not be reported when the basic procedure code(s) indicate that a series of tests are to be obtained. The initial service should be reported on one line. Additional services billed with modifier 91 appended to the code should be billed on the second line with the total number of units.

Example of correctly using modifier 91:

- A patient has arterial blood gases performed at 8 am, 12 noon, and 4 pm (on the same day). The specific blood gas test utilized in all three instances is 82803 (gases, blood, any combination of pH, pCO₂, pO₂, CO₂ HCO₃).
- Code 82803 should be reported for the initial test and 82803 with modifier 91 appended should be reported for the two subsequent tests.

Examples of inappropriate usage:

- Re-running a test to confirm initial results
- Re-running a test due to equipment problems
- Re-running a test due to specimen problems
- Re-running a test when a one-time reportable result is all that is required
- When a procedure code describes a series of results
- When a more descriptive modifier is available

RESOURCES

CMS. (2024). Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 16 – Laboratory Services.

<https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/clm104c16.pdf>