

AUDIT-READY RESOURCE CENTER

Audit-Ready Modifier Reference Guide

Think Like an Auditor

Original guidance for documentation integrity, compliance, and audit readiness.

How to Use This Guide

Documentation—not the modifier itself—supports the claim. Use this guide to evaluate whether the medical record supports the reported modifier.

Modifier 24

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 25

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 50

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 51

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 52

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 53

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 57

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 59

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 76

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 77

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 78

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 79

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 80

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier AS

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 91

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier 95

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier XE/XP/XS/XU

Audit Focus: Verify documentation supports the reported circumstance.

Documentation Should Show: Medical necessity, clear provider documentation, and qualifying circumstances.

Common Audit Risk: Modifier appended without documentation or solely to obtain payment.

Auditor Tip: Ask whether another auditor would reach the same conclusion.

Modifier Documentation Checklist

- Modifier is valid for the code and payer.
- Medical necessity is documented.
- Documentation supports the modifier.
- NCCI and payer edits reviewed.
- Claim is audit defensible.

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