



Modifier 26 Coding Policy

Definitions

CPT Modifier 26 - Professional Component

The exercise of medical judgment, including interpretation of results and a narrative report

HCPCS Level II Modifier TC - Technical Component

The cost of the equipment supplies and personnel to perform the procedure

Global Service

A complete service/procedure where both the technical and professional components are performed by a single provider.

Modifier 26 is appended to billed codes to indicate that only the professional component of a service/procedure has been provided. It is generally billed by a physician. Services with a value of "1" or "6" in the PC/TC Indicator field of the National Physician Fee Schedule may be billed with modifier 26. These are predominantly radiology services, but also include pathology, laboratory and medicine services.

Services with a value of "1" in the PC/TC Indicator field are diagnostic tests which have both a professional and technical component. When these services are performed in a hospital setting, the TC component is always presumed to be billed by the facility. Modifier –26 must be appended to the professional component billing.

Services with a value of "6" in the PC/TC Indicator field are clinical laboratory tests for which separate payment for physician interpretation of results may be made. When an interpretation is done, the 26 modifier should be appended to the code. It is never correct to append modifier TC to these codes.

- It is not correct to append both modifier TC and 26 when a global service has been performed. In that case, no modifier should be used.
- Modifier 26 should be billed in the first modifier position.

Source

Medicare Claims Processing Manual: Chapter 23 - Fee Schedule Administration and Coding Requirements

Section 50.6 – Physician Fee Schedule Payment Policy Indicator File Record LayOut

Professional Component (PC)/Technical Component (TC) Indicator; pages 57-60

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104C23.pdf>

Informative link to AAPC:

<https://www.aapc.com/blog/52001-when-to-apply-modifiers-26-and-tc/>