

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Provider information



November 16, 2012

QS modifier payment change

Currently the modifier QS, monitored anesthesia care service, is paid at the part-time anesthesia conversion rate. Effective January 1, 2013, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will change the processing and payment for monitored anesthesia care, indicated by the QS modifier.

The QS modifier is reported as a secondary anesthesia modifier, thus the pricing for QS will be based on the primary anesthesia modifier. If the primary modifier is full-time (**AA** or **QZ**), the QS will be priced based on the full-time conversion and likewise if the primary modifier is part-time (**AD**, **QK**, **QX** or **QY**), the QS will be priced based on the part-time conversion.

The anesthesia and modifier guidelines in the online Blue Cross Provider Policy and Procedure Manual will be updated to reflect this change. To access the manual, go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com** and select “Forms & publications,” then “manuals.”

Coding requirements reminder

All coding and reimbursement is subject to changes, updates or other requirements of coding rules and guidelines. All codes are subject to federal HIPAA rules, and in the case of medical code sets (for example, HCPCS, CPT, ICD-9-CM), only valid codes for the date of service may be submitted or accepted.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.