



**Billing and Reimbursement Policy:            Exploratory Surgery**

Key coding and reimbursement points include:

- Separate payment is not allowed for exploratory surgical procedures when billed in addition to a more significant primary abdominal surgical procedure(s).
- Exploratory surgery is considered incidental to the primary procedure.
- Exploration of intra-abdominal organs and structures for systemic examination, which results in surgery, is not payable.
- Modifier 59 may be used to indicate a separately identifiable service.
- This policy applies to place of service 21, 22 and 24.

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