

<b>Billing and Reimbursement Guideline:</b> Exploratory Surgery
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<b>Guideline Publication Date:</b> September 1, 2010
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Key coding, documentation 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 guideline applies to CMS-1500 claim submissions.
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- This guideline applies to place of service 21, 22 and 24.

*Please refer to Neighborhood's provider website at <http://www.nhpri.org> for specific provisions by product line.*

*This guideline is not a guarantee of reimbursement. Plan coverage, eligibility and claim payment edit rules may apply.*

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Version History

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Format change, minor edits