

## Global Days Policy, Professional

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®\*), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare strives to minimize these variations. UnitedHealthcare may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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### Application

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500) or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians and other Qualified Health Care Professionals (QHP), including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians and other QHP.

#### **United Healthcare Commercial**

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.

#### **UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange**

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all Individual Exchange benefit plans.

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**Policy**

**Overview**

The Global Period assignment or Global Days Value is the time frame that applies to certain procedures subject to a Global Surgical Package concept whereby all necessary services normally furnished by a physician (before, during and after the procedure) are included in the reimbursement for the procedure performed. Modifiers should be used as appropriate to indicate services that are not part of the Global Surgical Package.

For purposes of this policy, Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP is defined as physicians and/or other QHP of the same group and same specialty reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number (TIN).

**Reimbursement Guidelines**

**Global Period Assignments and the Global Surgical Package**

UnitedHealthcare follows the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in regard to Global Days Values as set forth in the *National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative Value File*, except as noted below. UnitedHealthcare also follows CMS in regard to services included in and excluded from the Global Surgical Package.

Refer to the **Attachments** section for a complete listing of the UnitedHealthcare Global Days Values assignments.

CMS/NPFS Global Days Value	UnitedHealthcare Global Days Value	Value Description
000	000	Endoscopic or Minor Procedure with related preoperative and postoperative relative values on the day of the procedure only are included in the Global Surgical Package. Evaluation and Management (E/M) services on the day of the procedure are not reimbursable except as noted within this policy.
010	010	Minor Procedure with preoperative relative values on the day of the procedure and postoperative relative values during a 10-day postoperative period are included in the Global Surgical Package. Evaluation and Management services on the day of the procedure and during the 10-day postoperative period are not reimbursable except as noted within this policy. A procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010 or 090 that is performed during the postoperative period of a procedure having a Global Days Value of 010 is included in the Global Surgical Package of the initial procedure and is not separately reimbursable except as noted within this policy.
090	090	Major Procedure with a 1-day preoperative period and 90-day postoperative period included in the Global Surgical Package. Evaluation and Management services on the day prior to the procedure, the day of the procedure, and during the 90-day postoperative period are not reimbursable except as noted within this policy. A procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010 or 090 that is performed during the postoperative period of a procedure having a Global Days Value of 090 is included in the Global Surgical Package of the initial procedure and is not separately reimbursable except as noted within this policy.
MMM	000, 042, XXX	Maternity code: the usual Global Period concept does not apply. UnitedHealthcare assigns Global Days Values to these codes. Codes which represent delivery plus postpartum services are assigned a Global Days Value of 042. For these 42-day codes, Evaluation and Management services on the day of the delivery and during the 42-day post-delivery period are not separately reimbursable except as noted within this policy. Other Maternity (MMM) codes are assigned Global Days Values of 000 or XXX.
XXX	N/A	Per CMS, the Global Surgical Package concept does not apply to the code.

YYY	000	The local Medicare carrier determines whether the global concept applies and establishes the postoperative period. UnitedHealthcare assigns a Global Days Value of 000 to these codes.
ZZZ	N/A	The code is related to another service and is <u>always</u> included in the Global Period of the primary service. The Global Surgical Package concept does not apply to the code.

Global Surgery applies in any setting, including an inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC), and physician’s office. Visits to a patient in an intensive care or critical care unit are also included in the Global Surgical Package if made by the Surgeon.

There are three types of Global Surgical Packages based on the number of post-operative days.

**Zero Day Post-operative Period**, (endoscopies and some Minor Procedures).

- No pre-operative period
- No post-operative days
- Visit on day of procedure is generally not payable as a separate service

**10-day Post-operative Period** (other Minor Procedures).

- No pre-operative period
- Visit on day of the procedure is generally not payable as a separate service
- Total Global Period is 11 days. Count the day of the surgery and 10 days following the day of the surgery.

**90-day Post-operative Period** (Major Procedures)

- One day pre-operative included
- Day of the procedure is generally not payable as a separate service
- Total Global Period is 92 days. Count 1 day before the day of the surgery, the day of surgery, and the 90 days immediately following the day of surgery.

The payment rules for Global Surgical Packages apply to procedure codes with global surgery indicators of 000, 010, 090, and, sometimes, YYY.

While codes with “ZZZ” are surgical codes, they are add-on codes that are always billed with another service. There is no post-operative work included in the NPFS payment for the “ZZZ” codes. Payment is made for both the primary and the add-on codes, and the Global Period assigned is applied to the primary code.

**Services Included in the Global Surgical Package**

The following services, when provided within the Global Period by the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP, are included in the Global Surgical Package and are not separately reimbursable except as specified.

- Preoperative visits are not separately reimbursable services when performed within the assigned Global Period. This period begins with the day before surgery for Major Procedures (those having a Global Days Value of 090) and the day of surgery for procedures having a Global Days Value other than 090.
- Complications following a procedure, including all additional medical and/or surgical services required of the physician (not resulting in a return trip to the operating room) that occur within the designated Global Period.
- Postoperative visits. This includes follow-up E/M visits that occur within the designated Global Period that are related to patient recovery following surgery.
- Post-procedure pain management by the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP.
- Selected supplies.
- Miscellaneous services related to the procedure such as dressing changes; local incisional care; removal of operative pack; removal of cutaneous sutures and staples, lines, wires, tubes, drains, casts, and splints;

insertion, irrigation and removal of urinary catheters, routine peripheral intravenous lines, nasogastric and rectal tubes; and changes and removal of tracheostomy tubes.

- A procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010 or 090 that is performed during the postoperative period of another procedure having a Global Days Value of 010 or 090, when both procedures are reported by the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP, is considered included in the Global Surgical Package of the initial procedure unless an appropriate modifier is appended.

#### **Services Not Included in the Global Surgical Package**

- Services of a physician who is not the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP. For situations involving transfer of care, see the Split Surgical Package policy for more information.
- The initial consultation or evaluation of the problem to determine the need for surgery when reported with modifier 57. This applies only to Major Procedures (those having a Global Days Value of 090). The initial evaluation is always included in the allowance for a procedure having a Global Days Value other than 090. Please see the **Global Days Values Assignments** table in the Attachments section below.
- Visits that are unrelated to the diagnosis for which the procedure was performed. (Use modifier 25 for the day of the procedure and modifier 24 during the postoperative period.)
- Critical care services that are unrelated to the specific anatomic injury or general surgical procedure performed, within a global surgical period (Use modifier FT).
- Diagnostic tests and procedures (including lab and x-rays).
- Staged or related procedures or services during the postoperative period. (Use modifier 58.)
- Clearly distinct procedures during the postoperative period that are not re-operations or treatment for complications. (Use modifier 79.)
- Immunosuppressive therapy for organ transplants.
- Treatment for postoperative complications that requires a return trip to the operating room (OR). Use modifier 78. Please see the Section entitled **Reimbursement for Procedures Reported with Modifier 78**.

#### **Reimbursement for Procedures Reported with Modifier 78**

Consistent with CMS and CPT, modifier 78 should be reported with procedure codes for treatment of postoperative complications that require a return trip to the operating room. Per CMS, an operating room is defined as a place of service specifically equipped and staffed for the sole purpose of performing procedures. The term operating room includes a cardiac catheterization suite, a laser suite and an endoscopy suite. It does not include a patient's room, a minor treatment room, a recovery room, or an intensive care unit (unless the patient's condition was so critical there would be insufficient time for transportation to an operating room.)

UnitedHealthcare will reimburse procedures having a Global Days Value of 010 or 090 reported with modifier 78 at the procedure-specific Intraoperative Percentage designated by CMS under the National Physician Fee Schedule (generally ranging from 60% to 84%).

A modifier 78 reduction will not be applied to a procedure having a Global Days Value other than 010 or 090, even if modifier 78 is appended.

A modifier 78 reduction will not be applied to a procedure having a Global Days Value of 010 or 090 which does not

also have an Intraoperative Percentage in the CMS National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File. For example, an Intraoperative Percentage is not listed in the National Physician Fee Schedule for CPT code 77750 (Infusion or instillation of radioelement solution (includes 3-month follow-up care)). Therefore, reimbursement for this code will not be reduced even if the code is reported with modifier 78.

[National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File](#)

A new Global Period will **not** apply to a procedure meeting these requirements and reported with modifier 78, and multiple procedure reductions will not be applied.

**Modifiers**

24	25	57	58	78	79	FT
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Definitions	
<b>Allowable Amount</b>	Defined as the dollar amount eligible for reimbursement to the physician or other QHP on the claim. Contracted rate, reasonable charge, or billed charges are examples of an Allowable Amount, whichever is applicable. For percent of charge or discount contracts, the Allowable Amount is determined as the billed amount, less the discount.
<b>Global Period, Global Days Value</b>	The Global Period or Global Days Value represents the period of time during which all necessary services normally furnished by a physician (before, during, and after the procedure) are included in the reimbursement for the procedure performed.
<b>Global Surgical Package</b>	The Global Surgical Package includes the following services in addition to the procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits after the decision for a procedure is made beginning with the day before the procedure for a Major Procedure and the day of the procedure for all others.</li> <li>• Services that are normally a usual and necessary part of a procedure.</li> <li>• Complications Following the Procedure - All additional medical or surgical services required during the postoperative period because of complications which do not require additional trips to the operating room.</li> <li>• Postoperative Visits - Follow-up visits during the postoperative period that are related to recovery.</li> <li>• Post-procedure Pain Management.</li> <li>• Supplies - Except for those identified as exclusions; and</li> <li>• Miscellaneous Services - Items such as dressing changes; local incisional care; removal of operative pack; removal of cutaneous sutures and staples, lines, wires, tubes, drains, casts, and splints; insertion, irrigation and removal of urinary catheters, routine peripheral intravenous lines, nasogastric and rectal tubes; and changes and removal of tracheostomy tubes.</li> </ul>
<b>Intraoperative Percentage</b>	Percentage for the intraoperative portion of the Global Surgical Package, including postoperative work in the hospital.
<b>Major Procedure</b>	A procedure having a Global Days Value of 090.
<b>Minor Procedure</b>	A procedure having a Global Days Value of 000 or 010.
<b>Same Specialty Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional (QHP)</b>	Physicians and/or other QHP of the same group and same specialty reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.
<b>Surgeon</b>	A Surgeon is defined by CMS and UnitedHealthcare as not only the physician who performed the procedure, but also any physician or non-physician of the same specialty within the physician's group practice.

**Questions and Answers**

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> When does the Global Period of a procedure begin and end?</p> <p><b>A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Global Period for a procedure having a Global Days Value of <b>000</b> begins and ends on the same day as the procedure and includes the Evaluation and Management (E/M) services on that day only.</li> <li>▪ The Global Period for a procedure having a Global Days Value of <b>010 or 042</b> includes E/M services provided on the day of the procedure and E/M services provided during the 10 or 42 days following the procedure, beginning the first day after the procedure.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Example: A procedure having a Global Days Value of <b>010</b> is performed on 10/1. E/M services reported on 10/1 and also during the 10-day postoperative period (10/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) are included in the Global Surgical Package.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Global Period for a procedure having a Global Days Value of <b>090</b> includes E/M services on the day before, the day of and during the 90 days following the procedure.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Example: Procedure is performed on 10/1. E/M services reported on 9/30, 10/1 and during the 90-day postoperative period (10/2 through and including 12/30) are included in the Global Surgical Package.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>*Note: In addition to E/M services, the Global Surgical Package and Global Period also apply to procedures that have Global Days Values when reported by the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP. A procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010 or 090 that is performed during the postoperative period of a procedure having a Global Days Value of 010 or 090 is considered included in the Global Surgical Package and Global Period of the initial procedure unless an appropriate modifier is appended.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> Does UnitedHealthcare require that a physician or other QHP submit two separate and distinct diagnosis codes in order to be reimbursed for a procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010, 042, or 090 and an appropriately modified E/M code submitted on the same day?</p> <p><b>A:</b> No. For reimbursement purposes, UnitedHealthcare requires that a physician or other QHP rendering a significant, separately identifiable E/M service on the same day of the procedure append modifier 25 to the E/M code. Although UnitedHealthcare does not require two separate and distinct diagnosis codes to be submitted, if there is more than one diagnosis, all diagnosis codes should be indicated on the claim in accordance with correct coding guidelines.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> Would UnitedHealthcare reimburse a Surgeon for unrelated Evaluation and Management services during the Global Period of a procedure?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Yes. UnitedHealthcare would reimburse for unrelated Evaluation and Management services during the Global Period of a procedure when modifier 24 (Unrelated Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician During the Postoperative Period) is appended to the E/M code.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> If a cardiologist performs a procedure having a Global Days Value of 010, and then another cardiologist in the same medical group with the same tax identification number provides follow-up care for the patient during this 10-day period, would UnitedHealthcare reimburse the second cardiologist for a separate E/M service?</p> <p><b>A:</b> No, UnitedHealthcare would not reimburse for a separate E/M service in this case. UnitedHealthcare follows CMS guidelines by defining the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP as not only the physician or other QHP who performed the procedure, but also any physician or other QHP of the same specialty within the same group practice with the same tax identification number.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> Are Global Period assignments limited to surgical procedures only?</p> <p><b>A:</b> No, CMS has assigned Global Periods to some non-surgical procedures. Examples: Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment codes (98925 thru 98929) and Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment codes (98940 thru 98942) have CMS Global Days Value assignments of 000; Laser treatment for inflammatory skin diseases (psoriasis) total area less than 250 sq cm (CPT code 96920) has a CMS Global Days Value assignment of 000; and radiation oncology codes 77750-77763 have Global Days Value assignments of 090.</p>

6	<p><b>Q:</b> If a physician performs a surgery or procedure that has a Global Days Value of 010 or 090, and during the postoperative period of that procedure, the same physician (or the Same Specialty Physician or Other QHP) performs another surgery or procedure having any Global Days Value, is this subsequent procedure reimbursable?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Any procedure having a Global Days Value of 000, 010 or 090 that is performed during the postoperative period of an earlier procedure by a physician of the same TIN and specialty as the original Surgeon is considered included in the Global Surgical Package of the earlier procedure and is not separately reimbursable unless an appropriate modifier is also reported. Modifiers 58, 78 and 79 describe circumstances that may apply to the subsequent procedure. If one of these modifiers is reported on a subsequent procedure because the patient's record supports it, the subsequent procedure will not be considered included in the Global Surgical Package of the earlier procedure and will be considered for separate reimbursement.</p>
7	<p><b>Q:</b> If a Surgeon performs a procedure and reports it with modifier LT and during the postoperative period of that procedure, reports the same procedure with modifier RT, is the second procedure reimbursable?</p> <p><b>A:</b> The subsequent procedure reported with RT is included in the Global Surgical Package of the earlier procedure reported with LT unless the subsequent procedure is reported with an appropriate Global Days modifier to indicate that it meets one of the criteria for reimbursement. See the sections above titled Services Not Included in the Global Surgical Package. Correct coding guidelines require that all appropriate modifiers be reported.</p>
8	<p><b>Q:</b> Will critical care services be considered for separate reimbursement if performed within a global surgical period?</p> <p><b>A:</b> In those cases where a critical care visit is unrelated to the procedure with a global surgical period, critical care visits may be paid separately in addition to the procedure. Preoperative and/or postoperative critical care may be paid in addition to the procedure if the patient is critically ill (meets the definition of critical care) and requires the full attention of the physician, and the critical care is above and beyond and unrelated to the specific anatomic injury or general surgical procedure performed. When the critical care service is unrelated to the procedure, append the modifier FT.</p>

Attachments	
<a href="#">Global Days Assignments</a>	A list of CPT and HCPCS codes and their Global Days Values assignments. This list does not include codes assigned a value of XXX because the Global Surgical Package concept does not apply to codes with this value.
<a href="#">EM Services Included in the Global Period</a>	A list of Evaluation and Management services included in the Global Period.

Resources	
American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)</i> and associated publications and services	
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services	
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Relative Value Files	

History	
6/1/2026	Policy Version Change Reimbursement Guidelines Section: Reimbursement for Procedures Reported with Modifier 78 History Section: Entries prior to 6/1/2024 archived
1/1/2026	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: Global Days Assignments and EM Services Included in the Global Period updated



<b>6/29/2025</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: Global Days Assignments and EM Services Included in the Global Period updated History Section: Entries prior to 6/29/2023 archived
<b>3/30/2025</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: Global Days Assignments list updated History Section: Entries prior to 3/30/2023 archived
<b>2/9/2025</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: EM Services Included in the Global Period updated History Section: Entries prior to 2/9/2023 archived
<b>1/1/2025</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: Global Days Assignments and EM Services Included in the Global Period updated
<b>7/14/2024</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: EM Services Included in the Global Period updated
<b>6/30/2024</b>	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: Global Days Assignments and EM Services Included in the Global Period updated History Section: Entries prior to 6/30/2022 archived
<b>Prior to 2000</b>	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual
<b>Prior to 2000</b>	Policy approved by the Payment Policy Oversight Committee