


**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

**Transmittal # 17-26**

**TO:** Anesthesia Assistants

**FROM:** Claudia Schlosberg, J.D.   
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

**DATE:** October 26, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **Anesthesiologist Assistant Services for Medicaid-Reimbursable Claiming**

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The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the reimbursement policy and procedure for medical services provided by anesthesiologist assistants.

Under the District of Columbia State Plan for Medical Assistance (State Plan), anesthesiologist assistants are not authorized as Medicaid providers in their own right; and therefore are ineligible to claim Medicaid reimbursement for medical services. However, services provided by anesthesiologist assistants may be billed to Medicaid using the NPI of the supervising anesthesiologist. Additionally, the beneficiary's medical records must indicate that services were provided by an anesthesiologist assistant and were subsequently approved by the supervising anesthesiologist.

Relevant modifiers to report anesthesia services are as follows:

QK	Medical direction of two, three or four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals	This modifier is used on physician claims to indicate that the physician provided medical direction of two to four concurrent anesthesia services. Physician payment is reduced to 50 percent of the fee schedule amount.
QX	CRNA (certified registered nurse anesthetist) service: with medical direction by a physician	This modifier is appended to CRNA or anesthetist assistant (AA) claims. This informs a payer that a CRNA or AA provided the service with direction by an anesthesiologist. Payment is usually reduced by 50 percent.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Mike Brown, Manager, Division of Public and Private Provider Services via e-mail at [mikel.brown@gov](mailto:mikel.brown@gov), or telephone at 202-698-2044.

cc: Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
DC Hospital Association  
DC Primary Care Association  
DC Health Care Association  
DC Home Care Association  
DC Behavioral Health Association  
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers