

## Reimbursement Guide for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)

**Definitions:**

<b>Incident to</b> - Are services provided strictly as a follow up to the physician's plan of care. Incident-to billing is limited to the office setting. If incident-to services are provided by a nurse practitioner or physician assistant the physician must be on site, and the visit cannot be with a new patient or with an old patient with a new problem. The services for incident to should be billed under the supervising physician's credentials. Please see attached link for more detail. Please verify each payer's policy to verify their incident-to billing rules as they are subject to change.			<a href="#">See section 60</a>
<b>Direct Billing</b> - Mid-level provider bills under their own credentials; not incident-to.			
<b>Direct Supervision</b> - The physician is physically present in the building (in-office), where the service is being rendered.			<a href="#">See section 60</a>
<b>Indirect Supervision</b> - The physician is not physically present in the building (not in office) where the service is being rendered.			N/A
	<b>Incident to</b>	<b>Direct Billing</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Aetna</b>			
<b>Required modifier</b>	No modifier is required.		<a href="#">Click here (pg. 4)</a>
<b>Reimbursement</b>	100% of the physician's contracted rate.	Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.	
<b>Credentialing required?</b>	If the supervising physician has an Aetna group contract, credentialing is not required. If the supervising physician has an individual contract, credentialing is required.	Credentialing required	<a href="#">Form</a>
<b>Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?</b>	Yes.	NA	
<b>BlueCross BlueShield of Texas</b>			
<b>Required modifier</b>	Modifier "SA" is required.	No modifier is required.	<a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>Reimbursement</b>	Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		
<b>PA or NP credentialing required?</b>	No credentialing or provider record needed. Supervising physician must be contracted.	A provider record ID must be established. Claims will be processed as out-of-network.	<a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?</b>	No, only uses CMS as a guideline.	NA	

<b>Cigna</b>			
<b>Required modifier</b>	Modifier "SA" is required.	No modifier is required.	
<b>Reimbursement</b>	100% of the physician's contracted rate.	Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.	
<b>Credentialing required?</b>	Per Cigna's Provider Services NPs and PAs do not need to be credentialed. Must be listed under the physician's contract.	Credentialing required	
<b>Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?</b>	No.	NA	
<b>Humana</b>			
<b>Required Modifier</b>	No modifier is required.		
<b>Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.</b>	100% of the physician's contracted rate.	Reimbursement is contingent on contract terms but is generally 80% to 85% of the physician's contracted rate.	
<b>PA or NP credentialing required?</b>	NP or PA must be loaded under the physicians contract.	NP or PA must be loaded under the physicians contract. Those serving as PCPs must be credentialed.	
<b>Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?</b>	Yes.	NA	
<b>United Healthcare</b>			
<b>Required modifier</b>	Modifier "SA" is required.	No modifier is required.	
<b>Reimbursement</b>	100% of the physician's contracted rate.	Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.	
<b>Credentialing required?</b>	No	Yes	
<b>Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?</b>	Yes.	NA	

Medicare			
Required modifier	No modifier is required.		
Reimbursement	100% of the physician's contracted rate.	Reimbursement is 85% of the physician's contracted rate.	
Credentialing required?	No	Yes.	
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	Yes.	NA	
Medicaid - Nurse Practitioner			
Required modifier	Modifier "SA" is required.	No modifier is required.	<a href="#">See Medical and Nursing, Specialists, and Physician Assistants Handbook</a>
Reimbursement	Services are reimbursed at 92% of the physician's rate.		
Credentialing required?	Yes		
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	The information is implied, but not stated.	NA	
Medicaid - Physician Assistant			
Required modifier	Modifier "U7" is required.	No modifier is required.	<a href="#">See Medical and Nursing, Specialists, and Physician Assistants Handbook</a>
Reimbursement	Services are reimbursed at 92% of the physician's rate.		
Credentialing required?	Optional	Yes	
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	The information is implied, but not stated.	NA	

\*This information is subject to change without notice. Please refer to your contract and verify conditions with each plan.

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