

# Provider Memorandum

## Correct Assistant Surgeon Claims Procedure

Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) reminds you how Assistant Surgeons should be billed in alignment with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). Assistant Surgeons are reimbursed based on their actual time spent on the procedure, not based on percentages or the procedure itself. Follow this rate schedule from HFS:

Hours	Rate
1 to 60 Mins.	\$74.95
Between 1 and 2 Hrs.	\$119.20
Between 2 and 3 Hrs.	\$178.80
Between 3 and 4 Hrs.	\$238.40
Between 4 and 5 Hrs.	\$298.00
Between 5 and 6 Hrs.	\$357.60
Between 6 and 7 Hrs.	\$417.20
Between 7 and 8 Hrs.	\$476.80
Between 8 and 9 Hrs.	\$536.40
Between 9 and 10 Hrs.	\$596.00
Between 10 and 11 Hrs.	\$655.60
Between 11 and 12 Hrs.	\$715.20
Between 12 and 13 Hrs.	\$774.80
Between 13 and 14 Hrs.	\$834.40
Between 14 and 15 Hrs.	\$894.00
For time greater than 15 hours, add \$59.60 for each additional hour.	

### Example of Incorrect Billing

21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY Relate A-L to service line below (24E) ICD Ind. 0										22. RESUBMISSION CODE 1		ORIGINAL REF. NO.							
A. M47.22		B. M48.02		C.		D.		E.		23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER									
E.		F.		G.		H.		I.		J.									
I.		J.		K.		L.													
24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE		B. PLACE OF SERVICE		C. EMG		D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances)		E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER		F. \$ CHARGES		G. DAYS OR UNITS		H. SPOT (Family Plan)		I. ID. QUAL.		J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #	
MM	DD	YY	MM	DD	YY		CPT/HCPCS	MODIFIER											
08	19	20	08	19	20	21	22600	AS	AB	\$5,091.00	171.00	N	NPI	<del>00454004</del>					
08	19	20	08	19	20	21	63045	AS	AB	\$5,993.00	171.00	N	NPI						
08	19	20	08	19	20	21	22614	AS	AB	\$1,608.00	171.00	N	NPI						
08	19	20	08	19	20	21	22842	AS	AB	\$4,926.00	171.00	N	NPI						
08	19	20	08	19	20	21	63048	AS	AB	\$3,972.00	171.00	N	NPI						
PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION																			
25. FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER																			
26. CEM ID																			
27. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT #																			
28. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT?																			
29. TOTAL CHARGE																			
30. AMOUNT PAID																			
31. Date of NUPC Use																			

The example is incorrect because the total number of units (171.00) is listed on five different lines. This should be four lines, each at 34.00 units, and one line at 35.00 units (34 x 4 + 35 = 171 total units/minutes). Providers should bill one line with the total time, or divide the time among the lines so that the total is 171. Do **not** duplicate the units/minutes or the claim will be rejected. Molina will take the total for the claim.

Providers should also use the correct modifier for the type of assistant. HFS outlines these specific modifiers for Assistant Surgeons:

- 80 – Assistant surgeon.
- 81 – Minimum assistant surgeon.
- 82 – Assistant surgeon when qualified resident surgeon not available.
- AS – Physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist services for assistant at surgery.

Furthermore, providers must follow these guidelines set forth by HFS:

- Rates apply to procedure codes payable for surgical assistance as identified on the [Practitioner Fee Schedule](#).
- Time entry on claims **must** be in minute format (e.g., for 1 hour and 10 minutes, enter "0070" for 70 minutes).
- When surgical assistance time billed is 8 hours or more (480 minutes or more), documentation is **required** as indicated in the Practitioner Handbook found on the HFS website.
- Please follow the online HFS fee schedule, which outlines what procedures may have Assistant Surgeons:

<b>Assist Surg</b> (Assistant Surgeon)	"Y" indicates services of an assistant at surgery may be paid.
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## More Information

For complete details and the most current fee schedule, reference the Medical Reimbursement page of the [HFS website](#). Also, many providers benefit from interactive, live instruction. Join us for one of our many live webinars in our [Provider Education Series](#). At the end of each session, you will have an opportunity ask questions and get clarification from Molina team members.

## Questions?

We're here to help. Contact your Provider Network Manager or email the Provider Network Management team at [MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com). For help identifying your Provider Network Manager, visit [Molina's Service Area](#) page at [MolinaHealthcare.com](#).

## Availity Provider Portal

We continue our transition to the Molina Availity Provider Portal, a tool that streamlines your claims management, authorizations, and eligibility/benefit verification. Are you registered yet? [Click here](#) to get started.

**Get Critical Updates**

Receive news and updates about Molina services and plan requirements delivered straight to your inbox. [Click here](#) to join Molina's provider email list.

**Note:** Molina's website and documents are best viewed in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.