

## **Appropriate use of Modifier -25:**

The modifier -25 is defined as a significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management (E/M) service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day of a procedure or other service.

Medicare defines same physician as physicians in the same group practice who are of the same specialty. In this instance they must bill and be paid as though they were a single physician.

Modifier -25 indicates that on the day of a procedure, the patient's condition required a significant, separately identifiable E/M service, above and beyond the usual pre-and post-operative care associated with the procedure or service performed.

All E/M services provided on the same day as a procedure are part of the procedure and Medicare only makes separate payment if an exception applies.

Example **Table 1**: The CMS-1500 excerpt illustrates reporting of only OtoSight services.

Example <u>Table 2</u>: The Table 2 excerpt shows how OtoSight services may be reported when provided on the same day, with the same physician as other services. Here, the E/M code 99214 includes the -25 Modifier indicating this as a separate and distinct and identifiable service.

17. NAME OF REFERENCE PROVIDER OR OTHER SOURCE B, HOSPETALIZATION DATES RELATED TO CURRENT SERV TO 9. OUTSIDE LAB? OtoSight Middle Ear Scope K191804 YES X NO OFBSBNAL REF. NO. J20.6 H66.93 05 10 23 05 10 A. B 2 05 10 23 05 10 23 11 A. B XXX.XXX 0486T 987654321A 3 05 10 23 05 10 99214 987654321A 25 A.B XXX.XX

TABLE 2

NOTE: Pursuant to the current National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI), use of modifier -25 appended to any E/M service is elective when OtoSight exam is reported. However, CMS plans and the vast majority of commercial plans are requiring use of modifier -25 with the E/M service.