



## Department of Medicaid

**John R. Kasich**, Governor

**Barbara R. Sears**, Director

### Medicaid Transmittal Letter (MTL) No. 3334-17-03

DATE: June 20, 2017  
TO: Eligible Medicaid Providers  
Chief Executive Officers, Managed Care Plans  
Other Interested Parties  
FROM: Barbara R. Sears, Medicaid Director  
SUBJECT: Adding Co-surgery Coverage and Limitations to Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5160-4-22, Surgical Services

In its annual Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) indicates surgical procedures that may be performed bilaterally, surgical procedures for which an assistant-at-surgery may be appropriate, and surgical procedures for which two co-surgeons may be appropriate. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 5160-4-22, "Surgical services," has been revised to align the co-surgery policy of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) more closely with Medicare coverage policy.

The MPFS uses indicators to distinguish between procedures that are often performed by two surgeons when necessary and may be claimed by both surgeons (indicator 2) and procedures that are normally performed by only one surgeon and therefore require manual review of supporting documentation to substantiate the need for two surgeons (indicator 3). ODM will make separate payment as co-surgery only for procedures listed with indicator 2. Each surgeon reports such procedures on a claim with procedure code modifier 62. Payment to each surgeon is made at the lesser of the submitted charge or 62.5% of the Medicaid maximum. Multiple-procedure payment reduction (for more than one surgical procedure performed together), described in paragraph (B) of the rule, applies to co-surgery procedures.

In addition, the statement that "payment for the surgical treatment of obesity requires prior authorization" has been removed from this rule. The correct prior authorization requirement, that a hospital facility must obtain any needed prior authorization before a surgery is performed, is found in OAC rule 5160-2-03.

#### **Additional Information**

Information about the services and programs of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) may be accessed through the main ODM web page, <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov>.

Questions pertaining to this letter should be directed to the Ohio Department of Medicaid:

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