Dear Doctor:

Thank you for referring your cataract patients to us. To insure a smooth transition please make sure you inform your patient that you will see them for their post-operative care. Let your patient know that the surgeon will keep you informed of the surgery. Our scheduling department will confirm with your patient about their post operative care.

As per guidelines published by Medicare in 1992, specific components of major surgery were defined as the “global surgery package.” The components they identified included pre-operative care, intraoperative services, post-operative care, and in-office care for any postoperative complications. In addition, the value of post-operative care for surgical procedures was standardized and post-operative care for ophthalmic surgery was valued at 20% of the global surgery package.

Medicare also published instructions to Medicare carriers on split billing of post-operative care, also known as post-operative co-management, within eye care. These instructions incorporated the following points, which are further defined in this section of our co-management manual:
1. Co-management requires a written transfer agreement between the surgeon and the receiving doctor(s).
2. Specific modifiers must be used on claims (54 - surgical care only / 55 - postoperative management only).
3. The receiving doctor cannot bill for any part of the service included in the global period until he/she has provided at least one service.

Co-Management Modifiers

Where physicians agree on the transfer of care during the global period, services will be distinguished by the use of appropriate modifier.
- 54 Modifier: Surgical Care Only
- 55 Modifier: Post-operative management only

Modifiers 54 and 55 are used to indicate the surgical care and post operative management services are being rendered by two different physicians. The physician who is rendering the surgical care only using 54 and physician rendering the postoperative care associated with a given surgical procedure uses 55 modifier.

Co-Management Billing

For cataract surgery, we generally will use the diagnosis code 366.16 and the procedure code 66984. Should the surgeon code something different for your patient’s case, our billing office will contact your office and let you know the proper procedure and/or diagnosis to use.

- Report the date of service using the date of the surgical procedure
- Report the procedure code for the surgical procedure followed by modifier 55
- Report the range of dates that you provided the postoperative care in the procedure description (narrative) field on electronic claims, and block 19 on the CMS 1500 claims form. Individual dates are not needed, only the date range
- Both the surgeon and the physician providing post-operative care must keep a copy of the written transfer agreement in the beneficiary’s medical record.
Medicare Co-Management Reimbursement

The total post operative care percentage for ophthalmic procedures has been set at 20% of the surgical fee allowance. In cases where more than one physician furnishes post-operative services the payment will be divided between the physicians based on the number of days for which each doctor is responsible for furnishing post-operative care.

- $674.82 (Par Fee) - Medicare 2014 Surgical fee Allowance for 66984
- $134.96 (Par Fee) - Medicare 2014 20% global fee allowance for 66984

Co-Management of Premium Lenses

Premium lenses are considered a non-covered benefit and are not required to be billed to insurance companies. We ask cataract patients to sign a Notice of Exclusion Form when they choose to upgrade to a premium lens. This form explains the reasons that the premium lenses are not covered by insurance companies and the patient’s financial responsibility for the upgrade.

Surgeon NPI Information

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Contact Information


55 Madison Street, Suite 355 6881 S Yosemite Street
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Main Phone Number: (303) 377-2020
Main Fax Number: (303) 377-2022
Billing Office Number: (303) 388-5353
Jessica Crutchfield: (303) 398-7316

We thank you for your kind referrals and trusting us with the care of your patients. Should you have any additional questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me directly or call our office for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jessica Crutchfield
Business Office Manager