

Modifier 93 and Appendix T

CPT® Assistant.

August 2022; Volume 32: Issue 8

At the September 2021 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Editorial Panel Meeting, the CPT Editorial Panel (the Panel) approved the addition of modifier 93, *Audio-only Services*, to the CPT code set to allow the reporting of selected services that are provided during real-time interaction between a physician or other qualified health care professional (QHP) and a patient using audio-only technology. Use of modifier 93 became effective January 1, 2022. In addition, at the February 2022 CPT Editorial Panel Meeting, the Panel approved the addition of Appendix T to the CPT code set. Appendix T, which became effective April 1, 2022, provides a listing of codes to which modifier 93 may be appended. This article provides an overview of modifier 93 and the recent addition of Appendix T.

Modifier 93

Since the beginning of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease 2019 [COVID-19]) pandemic, there has been an increase in the use of telemedicine services, which are reported by appending modifier 95, Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via a Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System, to the appropriate code(s). (Appendix P contains a listing of codes to which modifier 95 may be appended.) However, not all patients have access to the video piece of telemedicine technology. While there are specific codes within the CPT code set to report audio-only services, additional services may be provided via audio-only technology for which there is not a specific code. Rather than create all new codes to identify these services, modifier 93 was created to append to the appropriate code(s) to report these services. In addition, use of modifier 93 will allow for tracking of how often eligible services are performed using audio-only technology. The descriptor for modifier 93 is as follows:

93 Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via Telephone or Other Real-Time Interactive Audio-Only Telecommunications

System: Synchronous telemedicine service is defined as a real-time interaction between a physician or other qualified health care professional and a patient who is located away at a distant site from the physician or other qualified health care professional. The totality of the communication of information exchanged between the physician or other qualified health care professional and the patient during the course of the synchronous telemedicine service must be of an amount and nature that is sufficient to meet the key components and/or requirements of the same service when rendered via a face-to-face interaction.

A speaker (X) symbol has been added to the CPT code set to identify codes that are eligible to be reported with modifier 93. For example, the following code is eligible to be reported with modifier 93:

Psychiatry

★ **90791** Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation

If the psychiatric diagnostic evaluation is performed using audio-only technology, then modifier 93 would be appended to code 90791.

The descriptor for modifier 93 will be added to the CPT 2023 code set and is currently available on the American Medical Association (AMA) website at <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/cpt-appendix-a-modifier-93.pdf>.

Appendix T

Appendix T provides a listing of CPT codes to which modifier 93 may be appended. It will be added to the CPT 2023 code set and is currently available on the AMA website at <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/cpt-appendix-t.pdf>.