

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

The 59 Modifier Is Not A Free Pass

Warning: You should only use modifier 59 to report nail debridement code [CPT 11720](#) and lesion paring/cutting codes [CPT 11055](#)-11057 if the nails were on a separate anatomical area than the lesions or in a different visit, according to MLN Matters Article SE0715.

Similarly, you can use the 59 modifier for nail trimming [CPT 11719](#) and nail debridement code 11720 only if the procedures affect different nails or happen in different encounters, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) says. The same goes for lesion destruction code 17000 and lesion biopsy code 11100.

Editor's Note: See next week's PBI for more about the 59 modifier.