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PROVIDER BULLETIN

TOPIC: Surgical Assistant

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Based on review of the current literature, the Division defines a surgical assistant as a physician, physician assistant (PA), nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist. This does not apply to a co-surgeon.

Summary: All reimbursements will be paid per the established Workers' Compensation fee schedule. Assistants during surgery will be paid if indicated by the criteria for that procedure. If not indicated by the criteria, an assistant will be paid if documentation substantiates medical necessity, including how the assistant was involved in the actual performance of the procedure. If the assistant is not included in the criteria for the procedure and the necessity is not documented, reimbursement will be denied.

References

Holley, M. (2013, July). *Prompt proper assistant-at-surgery payment. It's as easy, or as hard, as 1,2,3.* AAPC Cutting Edge, aapc.com.

