

CMS has deleted the “QR” modifier, replacing it with the new “Q0” (zero) modifier.

Effective January 1, 2008

The Q0 (zero) modifier should be used in the way that the QR modifier was previously used, and must be applied to claims with date of service on or after January 1, 2008.

MODIFIER	SHORT DESCRIPTOR	LONG DESCRIPTOR
Q0 (zero)	Investigational clinical research	Investigational clinical service provided in a clinical research study that is in an approved clinical research study

For physician practices:

Enter “Q0” in field 24D of CMS 1500 for CPT code 33249 (full system implant) and 33240 (replacement generator).

For hospital outpatient:

Enter “Q0” in field 44 of CMS 1450 for CPT codes 33249 (full system implant) and 33240 (replacement generator).

Background

Medicare national coverage policy requires that providers implanting ICDs for primary prevention report data on each of these procedures. Primary prevention procedures include those for patients without a history of cardiac arrest or spontaneous arrhythmia. This is a mandatory requirement of Medicare reimbursement coverage.

The QR modifier, until replaced with the Q0 modifier, was required for Part B claims to identify ICD patients whose data was being submitted to a data collection system. (NOTE: modifiers can not be appended to ICD-9 procedure codes, only HCPCS codes).

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2008, claims submitted with the discontinued QR modifier will be returned to the provider for correction and resubmission with the Q0 modifier.

References

CMS Transmittal 1403: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1403CP.pdf>

CMS Transmittal 497: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R497CP.pdf>

If you have questions regarding this communication:

Contact your local St. Jude Medical representative. To reach a representative in your area, contact St. Jude Medical at 512.732.7400.