

START SMART CODING TIP

Global-Period E/M

A proposed CY 2027 payment reduction for same-day E/M and procedures

STATUS

Proposed • CY 2027 PFS • not yet final

Reduced E/M Pay in the Global Period

What triggers the proposed reduction



WHAT TRIGGERS THE REDUCTION

CMS has proposed reducing payment when a **separately identifiable E/M visit** is provided by the **same physician** **or same group practice** on the **same day** as a procedure carrying a global period.

GLOBAL PERIODS NOW IN SCOPE

●
0-Day

Minor procedures

●
10-Day

Minor procedures

●
90-Day

Major procedures – newly added

HOW PAYMENT WOULD WORK

The 100% / 50% Split

One service is paid in full; every other same-day service is halved

100%

HIGHEST-VALUED SERVICE

The higher-valued service – either the E/M visit or the surgical procedure – is paid at the full allowable rate.

50%

EVERYTHING ELSE

Every other same-day surgical procedure or E/M visit is paid at half the allowable rate.

WHY & HOW FAR IT REACHES

Rationale & Scope Expansion

CMS's reasoning – and how the proposal goes beyond current payer practice



RATIONALE

CMS states the change is intended to eliminate **duplicate payment** for practice-expense components.

Those components are already **bundled into the global surgical package**.



SCOPE EXPANSION

The proposal extends the 50% reduction to include **90-day global procedures**.

That's broader than some commercial payers, which currently apply the reduction only to **0- and 10-day** global procedures.

NOT UNPRECEDENTED

Commercial Payer Precedents

Several commercial plans have already moved in this direction



WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING

Several BCBS plans have already implemented similar **50% reductions for modifier 25 E/M services** billed with minor procedures (0- or 10-day global), effective between **April and October 2024**.

BCBS PLANS ALREADY APPLYING A 50% REDUCTION



Texas



California



North Carolina



New Jersey

What's Next

Proposed for 2027 and not yet final



Sept 14, 2026

Public comment period closes.



November 2026

CY 2027 Physician Fee Schedule final rule expected.



January 1, 2027

Proposed effective date, pending finalization.



These changes are **proposed and not yet final**. A follow-up will be shared once the final rule is published and the effective date is confirmed – and, as always, reach out with any coding questions.