



## **Payment Guideline: Assistant Surgeon Not Applicable**

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**Read First**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING WELLFLEET PAYMENT GUIDELINES**

This Payment Guideline serves as notice to health care providers of Wellfleet’s payment practices. Health providers are advised to consult their own network provider agreement for determining specific payment policies.

Wellfleet may use reasonable discretion in applying these Payment Guidelines to health care services provided to its enrollees. This Payment Guideline does not address all the issues related to reimbursement for health care services. Other factors impacting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this Payment Guideline. These factors may include, but are not limited to, legislative mandates, the type of provider arrangement and the terms of that agreement, and/or the member’s benefit coverage document.

Wellfleet may modify this Payment Guideline at any time to comply with changes in national standards, changes in best practices, or other factors that may impact this payment Guideline. Should this Payment Guideline be revised, Wellfleet shall publish a new version of this Payment Guideline. Wellfleet encourages providers to keep current with any CPT or HCPCS updates as well as industry standards related to the services described in this Payment Guideline.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Wellfleet reserves the right to request supporting documentation for claims submitted, including provider records.

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**Applicable  
Plans**

- Student Health Insurance (for policies issued or renewing after May 2019)
  - Fully Insured
    - Excluding policies issued in the following states: N/A
    - Excluding Wellfleet Global
  - Self-Funded
    - Excluding policies issued by the following schools: N/A
- Student Sports
  - Fully Insured; for policies issued by the following carriers:
    - AIG
    - Axis



## Assistant Surgeon Not Applicable

### PAYMENT GUIDELINE

Guideline No: GL-020

- Wellfleet Insurance Company/Wellfleet New York Insurance
- Self-Funded
  - Excluding policies issued by the following schools: N/A
- Fully Insured Student Accident; for policies issued by the following carriers:
  - AIG
  - Axis
  - Wellfleet Insurance Company/Wellfleet New York Insurance

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#### Purpose

Wellfleet follows the CMS Guidelines 20.4.3 – Assistant at Surgery Services (Rev. 1, 10-03-03) BS-15044 that states: Carriers may not pay assistants at surgery for surgical procedures in which a physician is used as an assistant at surgery in fewer than 5% of the cases for that procedure nationally. In addition, physicians are prohibited from billing for assistant at surgery services subject to the assistant at surgery limitations.

Wellfleet also took into consideration from the American College of Surgeon's Annual Report published as a result of a committee of its members opinions on the current CMS list.

See Attachment 1 for Wellfleet's Assistant Surgeon List.

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#### Scope

All surgeon bills which contain the use of Modifiers 80, 81, 82 or AS.

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**Guidelines** Wellfleet will pay for assistant surgeons when appropriate, as shown in the Wellfleet Assistant Surgeon List.

- Codes with an “**Almost Never**” category are not considered a covered benefit.
- Codes with an “**Sometimes**” will require medical records in order to make a determination.
- Codes with an “**Almost Always**” category are considered appropriate for an assistant surgeon.
- Codes with an “**Other**” will go through Wellfleet’s standard claim editing process and may require supporting documentation in order to make a determination.

The operative report must contain information what the assistant actually does and an indication of why there is a need for an assistant.

**Attachments** 1. Wellfleet Assistant Surgeon List:  
<https://wellfleetstudent.com/providers/>

**Change  
History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
1.0	6/1/2020	6/1/2021
2.0	6/1/2021	6/1/2022
3.0	6/1/2022	6/1/2023
4.0	8/15/2023	6/1/2024