

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

READER QUESTIONS: X-Ray of Both Wrists Always = Mod 50

Question: When coding bilateral wrist x-ray 73110 with three views, can two units be used to indicate both right and left wrist were x-ray?

New York Subscriber

Answer: No. For x-rays (73110, Radiologic examination, wrist; complete, minimum of 3 views) of the right and left wrists, always use modifier 50 (Bilateral procedure).

The same would apply to x-rays of other pairs (for instance, right and left) of limbs as well, such as 73130 (Radiologic examination, hand; minimum of 3 views) or 73562 (Radiologic examination, knee; 3 views). You may also wish to check with the payer to determine if its policy requires modifier RT (Right side) and LT (Left side) instead of modifier 50: 73110-RT, 73110-LT, or 73110-50.