

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Reader Questions: Modifiers 53, 73, or 74 Mean Failed Procedure

Question: Can we code for failed attempts at line placement? If so, what documentation do we need?

Answer: Yes, you can code for a failed procedure. In most instances, you'll append modifier 53 (Discontinued procedure) to the applicable line placement code. Modifier 53 indicates the procedure was shortened, so include documentation of the reason.

ASC option: If the failed procedure takes place in an ambulatory care center (hospital or ASC), your modifier choice changes. Append modifier 73 (Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgical center [ASC] procedure prior to the administration of anesthesia) or modifier 74 (Discontinued outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgical center [ASC] procedure after the administration of anesthesia), depending on when the physician canceled the procedure.