

## Modifier Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Try Modifier AU for Tape Application

**Question:** A doctor applied non-waterproof tape (A4450) over the skin of one of her patients to secure an ostomy supply. Can we use a modifier to seek reimbursement for the tape supply?

Kansas Subscriber

**Answer:** You may use AU (Item furnished in conjunction with a urological, ostomy, or tracheostomy supply) with A4450 (Tape, non-waterproof, per 18 square inches) or A4452 (Tape, waterproof, per 18 square inches).

**Keep in mind:** While you can seek reimbursement for the tape supply in some cases, in this situation the ostomy supply has its own adhesive agent. Thus, you cannot seek separate reimbursement for the tape. If there is a defect with the adhesive of the ostomy supply, you will contact the distributor or the manufacturer for replacement supplies.

**Here are four modifiers that CMS recommends you use with durable medical equipment (DME):**

- AU
- AV □ ... with a prosthetic device, prosthetic or orthotic
- AW □ ... with a surgical dressing
- AX □ ... with dialysis services.