

# Bilateral Billing Guidelines



**HCMS**  
Harris County Medical Society

Payor	If Code Description Indicates:			Payer policy at:
	"bilateral"	"unilateral"	"unilateral or bilateral"	
<b>Aetna</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Comm'l: Bill CPT on one line with modifier 50 and 1 units with the full charge for both procedures. MCR: Bill CPT on 2 lines, w/mod. 50 on one line. Paid at 150%	Do not use mod. 50; use mods RT or LT.	
<b>BCBSTX</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Bill CPT on one line with modifier 50 and one unit with the full charge for both procedures, <b>OR</b> bill CPT on 2 lines with RT and LT modifiers ; paid at 150%.	Do not use mod. 50; use mods RT or LT.	<a href="#">BCBSTX policy</a>
<b>Cigna</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	<b>Surgical Codes:</b> Bill CPT on 1 line with modifier 50 and one unit with the full charge for both procedures; paid at 150%. <b>Non-surgical Codes:</b> bill CPT on 1 line with modifier 50 at 2 units with full charge for both procedures <b>OR</b> bill CPT on 2 lines with RT and LT modifiers; paid at 200%	Do not use mod. 50; use mods RT or LT if done unilaterally.	<a href="#">Cigna policy</a>
<b>Humana</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Bill CPT on one line with modifier 50 and one unit with the full charge for both procedures; paid at 150%, <b>OR</b> bill CPT on 2 lines with RT and LT modifiers; paid at 150%.	Use mod. 50 if done bilaterally; paid at 100%	<a href="#">Humana policy</a>
<b>UHC</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Bill CPT on one line with modifier 50 and one unit with the full charge for both procedures; paid at 150%	Do not use mod. 50; use mods RT or LT with mod. 52 if unilateral	<a href="#">UHC policy</a>
<b>MCR</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Bill CPT on one line with modifier 50 and one unit with the full charge for both procedures; paid at 150%	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%. When a procedure with only "bilateral" written in the description is performed unilaterally, use modifier 52.	<a href="#">CMS policy (see Section 40.7)</a>
<b>MCD</b>	Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%	Surgical codes: Bill CPT on 2 lines using mod. LT and RT. Do not use mod. 50; paid at 150%.	Surgical codes: Bill CPT on 2 lines using mods LT and RT. Do not use mod. 50; paid at 100%.	see Provider Manual under "Bilateral Procedures"

*\*The information provided herein is subject to change and should be verified with the plan.*

*updated 11/2021*