

Modifier -25 Quick Reference

Facility Outpatient / Emergency Department & Observation

Modifier -25 indicates a significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management (E/M) service provided by the facility on the same day as another procedure. This reference is intended for facility outpatient billing only.

Emergency Department Examples

Scenario	Facility E/M Billable	Modifier -25	Rationale
ED visit + laceration repair	Yes	Yes	Separate ED evaluation and resource use beyond repair
ED visit + incision and drainage	Yes	Yes	E/M exceeds inherent procedural work
ED visit + splinting/casting	Yes	Yes	Distinct assessment and nursing resources
Visit solely for minor procedure	No	No	E/M supports only the procedure
Medication administration only	Yes	No	Inherent to ED care

Observation Examples

Scenario	Facility E/M Billable	Modifier -25	Rationale
Observation + minor procedure	Yes	Yes (cautious)	Procedure not inherent to observation care
Observation + diagnostic testing	Yes	No	Diagnostics included in observation
Observation + IV medication	Yes	No	Medication administration is inherent
Observation only	Yes	No	No separately identifiable service

Facility Audit Tip

Ask: Would the facility E/M still be billable if the procedure had not occurred? If the answer is no, Modifier -25 should not be reported.