

Anesthesia Time Reimbursement

Last Updated: 1/13/2026

Last Reviewed: 1/14/2026

Originally Effective: 1/1/2026

Last update includes payment policy changes, subject to 28 TAC §3.3703(a)(20)(D)? Yes

If yes, Texas Last Update Effective Date: 3/15/2026

Policy #: RPM082

Scope

Companies: Moda Partners, Inc. and its subsidiaries & affiliates (All)

Provider Contract Status: Any

Claim Forms: CMS1500 & CMS1450 (paper and electronic versions)

Claim Dates: All

Reimbursement Guidelines

A. Effective Date

The effective date for this policy varies by line of business.

1. Medicaid: Applies to claims processed on or after 1/1/2026.
2. Commercial: Applies to claims processed on or after 3/15/2026.

B. Time Reimbursement

1. Anesthesia is reimbursed based on the exact duration of the anesthesia service provided.
2. Each anesthesia unit represents 15 minutes. Anesthesia time that is less than a full 15-minute increment will be converted to a fractional unit and rounded to two decimal places.
3. Example, one hour and 20 minutes (80 minutes) of anesthesia time equals 5.33 time units ($80 \div 15 = 5.33$).

C. Include Start & Stop Times on the Claim

1. Anesthesia begin- and end-times must be included on the claim in one of the following locations:
 - a. Box 19
 - b. Claim Line Additional Information Field
 - c. Claim Notes field.
 - d. Example: Anesthesia time 12:24 – 14:41
 - e. This information is needed to validate the exact time the anesthesia service was provided.
2. For anesthesia services (00100-01999), anesthesia time begins when the anesthesiologist starts preparing the patient for anesthesia induction in the operating room or an equivalent area and ends when the anesthesiologist is no longer in personal attendance. ¹

Definitions

Acronyms/Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
AMA	American Medical Association
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
RPM	Reimbursement Policy Manual (e.g., in context of "RPM052" policy number, etc.)

Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
Anesthesia begin time	Anesthesia time begins when the anesthesiologist begins to prepare the patient for induction of anesthesia in the operating room or in an equivalent area. ¹

Term	Definition
Anesthesia end time	Anesthesia time ends when the anesthesiologist is no longer in personal attendance, that is, when the patient may be safely placed under postoperative supervision. ¹

Related Policies

- A. "[Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Overview](#)," Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM001.
- B. "[Qualifying Circumstances for Anesthesia](#)," Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM033.
- C. "[Anesthesia Physical Status Modifiers \(P1 - P6\)](#)," Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM032.
- D. "[Modifiers AA, AD, GC, QK, QX, QY, QZ – Anesthesia Payment Modifiers](#)," Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM034.
- E. "[Modifier 47 - Anesthesia By Surgeon](#)," Moda Health Reimbursement Policy Manual, RPM031.

Resources

1. American Medical Association. "Anesthesia Time Reporting." *CPT Book, Professional Edition*. Chicago: AMA Press, 2025, Anesthesia Guidelines, p. 68.

Policy History

Reminder: The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed or saved electronic version of this policy, please verify the current information by going to: https://www.modahealth.com/medical/policies_reimburse.shtml

Date	Summary of Update
1/14/2026	Policy document initially approved by the Reimbursement Administrative Policy Review Committee & initial publication.
1/1/2026	Original Effective Date (with or without formal documentation). Policy based on 10/29/2025 Claims Management decision.

Attachment 1 – Medicaid EOCCO Provider Notification

November 24, 2025: [EOCCO 2025 November Provider Newsletter](#)

Attachment 2 – Medicaid OHSU IDS Provider Notification # 1

November 20, 2025: [OHSU Health IDS 2025 November Provider Newsletter](#)

Attachment 3 – Medicaid OHSU IDS Provider Notification # 2

December 18, 2025: [OHSU Health IDS 2025 December Provider Newsletter](#)

Attachment 4 – Commercial Provider Notification

December 12, 2025



«Health_System»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Informational Only-No Action Required

Dear Contract Representative,

Effective March 15, 2026, Moda will be adjusting the way we calculate and reimburse for anesthesia services to match industry standards. Historically, our claims processing system rounded up on anesthesia time units to a whole number, rather than using a proportion of the time units.

How It Works:

If you billed 20 minutes of service, we would have rounded up to 2 units of 15-minute increments instead of a portion of 1.33-time units. Providers were then reimbursed as if 30 minutes of service were provided rather than 20 minutes of service. Going forward, reimbursement for 20 minutes of service will be calculated using a portion of time units, 1.33 vs. rounding up to a whole number.

Further Anesthesia reimbursement policies can be found here, under the anesthesia section.

[Medical Providers: Reimbursement Policy Manual](#)

Questions?

If you have further questions, please reach out to your assigned contractor directly, or you can reach out to the Provider Relations team at Providerrelations@modahealth.com.

Sincerely,

Moda Medical Provider Relations



modahealth.com

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