



June 13, 2018

**Re: Policy update for lumbar laminectomies, effective for claims processed on and after September 16, 2018**

We routinely review our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies for potential updates. In that review, we take into consideration one or more of the following: evidence-based medicine, professional society recommendations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, industry standards, and our other existing policies.

As a result of a recent review, we want to make you aware that we will update our Omnibus Reimbursement Policy (R24) to no longer reimburse claims (with or without a modifier) for a lumbar laminectomy when billed with a posterior lumbar interbody fusion (PLIF).

We are making this update because a lumbar laminectomy is considered incidental to the PLIF and should therefore not be separately reimbursable. This update is effective for claims processed on and after September 16, 2018.

**Additional information**

For more information about this policy, please log in to the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website at [CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com) (Useful Links > Policies and Procedures > Modifier and Reimbursement Policies > R24 – Omnibus Reimbursement Policy). For an outline of all of our policy updates, please visit [CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com) (Review Coverage Policies > Policy Updates).

If you are not a registered user, please register so you may log in and access all of our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies. Go to [CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com) and click "Register Now." If you do not have Internet access or would like additional information about this policy update, please call Cigna Customer Service at 1.800.88Cigna (882.4462).

Sincerely,

*JB Kessel MD*

Julie B. Kessel, MD  
Senior Medical Director

**At a glance**

- Because it is considered incidental to the PLIF, a lumbar laminectomy will no longer be reimbursed separately when billed with a PLIF.
- This update is effective for claims (with or without a modifier) that are processed on and after September 16, 2018.
- We will update our Omnibus Reimbursement Policy (R24) to indicate this change.
- A copy of this reimbursement policy, as well as additional coverage policy updates, are available on [CignaforHCP.com](http://CignaforHCP.com).

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