

Did you know that there are nearly 200 coding modifiers? Don't worry — that might seem a little overwhelming, but you won't be using all 200. However, since you will always be using modifiers, it can be helpful to be familiar with the basics. The following list provides an easy breakdown of the modifiers commonly used by dermatologists, as well as some of the less commonly used ones that can help you out of a tight spot, and you'll be on your way to coding modifiers.

Code	Short Descriptor
24	Unrelated E/M service by the same physician or other QHP during a postop period (<i>indicates that the E/M service is performed for a reason unrelated to the original procedure or service</i>).
25	Significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician or other QHP on the same day of the procedure or other service (<i>the E/M service is above and beyond the usual pre- and postoperative care associated with the minor procedure or service</i>).
26	Professional component (<i>the service provided was the reading and interpreting of the result of a diagnostic and / or laboratory service</i>).
57	Decision for surgery (<i>E/M service resulted in initial decision to perform a major procedure [90- day global period]</i>).
58	Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician or other QHP during the postop period (<i>the service or procedure was (a) planned or anticipated; (b) more extensive than the original procedure; or (c) for therapy following a surgical procedure</i>).
59	Distinct procedural service (<i>indicates that a procedure or service was distinct or independent for other non-E/M services performed on the same day</i>).
76	Repeat procedure or service by same physician or other QHP during postop period (<i>indicates that the same procedure [same CPT code] was repeated subsequent to the original procedure or service</i>).
79	Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician or other QHP during postop period (<i>the service or procedure is unrelated to the original procedure</i>).