

Post-Op Global Period Changes From 90 to Zero Days for Common Digital Amputation Procedures

January 14, 2021

The global surgical package for **CPT 28820 (amputation, toe: metatarsophalangeal joint)** and **CPT 28825 (amputation, toe: interphalangeal joint)** includes all the necessary services normally furnished by a surgeon before, during and after a procedure. Medicare payment for a surgical procedure includes the preoperative, intra-operative and postoperative services routinely performed by the surgeon.

The codes **CPT 28820 and 28825 have always had** a postoperative global period of 90 days. **However, on January 1, 2021, the postoperative global period for these procedures changed to zero days.**

This represents a major change for most practices that usually submitted CPT 99024 (*Postoperative follow-up visit, normally included in the surgical package, to indicate that an E&M was performed during a postoperative period for a reason(s) associated with the original procedure*) for postoperative visits for 90 days following the performance of CPT 28820 or CPT 28825. Now practices should submit medically necessary postoperative visits with the appropriate level evaluation and management CPT code.

If you perform either or both of the procedures represented by CPT 28820 and 28825, be sure to make the necessary changes in your coding and documentation consistent with a zero-day global period that went into effect on January 1, 2021.