

ABA Modifier FAQ

Q1. Why did I receive a notice of amendment regarding my Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) fee schedule?

A1. A fee schedule notice of amendment was mailed to all ABA providers on 6/15/22 amending their current Provider Agreement as it applies to commercial members only. The amendment is notification of adding two modifiers to your current ABA fee schedule; **HO modifier** to indicate a Behavior Analyst or a licensed mental health provider delivered the service and the **HP modifier** to indicate a BCBA-D or a licensed mental health provider delivered the service.

Q2. What is the effective date of the modifier update?

A2. Effective 9/15/22, ABA Commercial claims must include the correct modifier following the CPT code to be processed and paid correctly.

Q3. Why are modifiers used in billing?

A3. Modifiers are used in billing to reflect the credentials of staff delivering services and to allow for proper claims payment.

Q4. How do I bill for an ABA Supervisor?

A4. Billable services for an ABA Supervisor (Behavior Analyst or licensed mental health provider on staff providing program oversight) should be billed with the applicable CPT code(s) with the HO modifier.

Q5. Who can bill with HP modifier?

A5. Under industry standards, the HP modifier is defined as a doctorate level provider. Under the Optum ABA program, the approved doctorate level is a BCBA-D or a licensed mental health provider.

Q6. Who can bill with HN modifier?

A6. Under industry standards, the HN modifier is identified as bachelor's level provider. Under the Optum ABA program, the approved bachelor's level provider is a BCaBA.

Q7. Who can bill with the HM modifier?

A7. Under industry standards, the HM modifier is defined as less than a bachelor's degree. Under the Optum ABA program, the approved provider for this modifier is a Behavior Technician.

Q8. Will my claims pay if I do not include a modifier when billing?

A8. All ABA claims are required to be submitted with the appropriate modifier for proper claims payment.

Q9. Who do I call if I have questions regarding the ABA Commercial fee schedule modifier update?

A9. Please contact the Provider Service Line at 1-877-614-0484 with questions regarding the ABA Commercial fee schedule modifier update.