

coding corner

ophthalmology services coding know-how

One of the most frequently asked questions about coding that FCHP receives is: When is it appropriate to append the bilateral modifier (-50) when code descriptions are for organs or body parts that are paired? The tables below will address procedures for the eyes.

Table A is for codes for which payment is based on the service being performed as a bilateral procedure and reimbursement would be the fee schedule amount for a single code. Therefore, reporting with modifier -50, or reporting twice on the same date (with RT and LT modifiers or with two units), would be incorrect.

Table A

CPT Code	Description
92002	Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation with initiation of diagnostic and treatment program; intermediate, new patient
92004	Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation with initiation of diagnostic and treatment program; comprehensive, new patient, one or more visits
92012	Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation, with initiation or continuation of diagnostic and treatment program; intermediate, established patient
92014	Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation, with initiation of or continuation of diagnostic and treatment program; comprehensive, established patient, one or more visits
92020	Gonioscopy with medical diagnostic evaluation (separate procedure)
92060	Sensorimotor examination with multiple measurements of ocular deviation (e.g., restrictive or paretic muscle with diplopia) (separate procedure)
92065	Orthoptic and/or pleoptic training, with continuing medical direction and evaluation
92081	Visual field examination, unilateral or bilateral, with medical diagnostic evaluation; limited examination (e.g., tangent screen, autoplot, arc perimeter, or single stimulus level automated test, such as Octopus 3 or 7 equivalent)
92082	Visual field examination, unilateral or bilateral, with medical diagnostic evaluation; intermediate examination (e.g., at least 2 isopters on Goldmann perimeter, or semiquantitative, automated suprathreshold screening program, Humphrey suprathreshold automatic diagnostic test, Octopus program 33)
92083	Extended examination (e.g., Goldmann visual fields with at least 3 isopters plotted and static determination within the central 30 or quantitative, automated threshold perimetry, Octopus program G-1, 32 or 42, Humphrey visual field analyzer full threshold programs 30-2, 24-2, or 30/60-2)
92100	Serial tonometry (separate procedure) with multiple measurements of intraocular pressure over an extended time period with medical diagnostic evaluation, same day (e.g., diurnal curve or medical treatment of acute elevation of intraocular pressure)
92120	Tonography with medical evaluation, recording indentation tonometer method of perilimbal suction method

92130	Tonography with water provocation
92136	Ophthalmic biometry by partial coherence interferometry with intraocular lens power calculation
92140	Provocative tests for glaucoma, with interpretation and report, without tonography
92250	Fundus photography with interpretation and report
92260	Ophthalmodynamometry
92265	Needle oculoelectromyography, one or more extraocular muscles, one or both eyes, with interpretation and report
92270	Electro-oculography with interpretation and report
92275	Electroretinography with interpretation and report
92283	Color vision examination, extended, e.g., anomaloscope or equivalent
92284	Dark adaptation examination with interpretation and report
92285	External ocular photography with interpretation and report for documentation of medical progress (e.g., close-up photography, slit lamp photography, gonioscopy, stereo-photography)
92286	Special anterior segment photography with interpretation and report; with specular endothelial microscopy and cell count
92287	Special anterior segment photography with interpretation and report; with fluorescein angiography
92312	Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens for aphakia, both eyes
92316	Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneal lens for aphakia, both eyes

Please note: If the above codes are billed with multiple units when the description indicates it is a bilateral procedure, the claim will be rejected with a disposition of "REJECT INCORRECT # OF UNITS BILLED." The claim can be re-billed with the correct number of units, and will be reprocessed at the correct reimbursement rate.

Table B is for codes for which payment is based on the service being performed on each eye, and reimbursement would be based on the fee schedule amount for each side. Therefore, reporting with modifier -50, or twice on the same date (with RT and LT modifiers or with two units), would be **correct**.

Table B

CPT Code	Description
92135	Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging (e.g., scanning laser) with interpretation and report, unilateral
92136	Ophthalmic biometry by partial coherence interferometry with intraocular lens power calculation
92225	Ophthalmoscopy, extended, with retinal drawing (e.g., for retinal detachment, melanoma), with interpretation and report; initial
92226	Ophthalmoscopy, extended, with retinal drawing (e.g., for retinal detachment, melanoma), with interpretation and report; subsequent

92230	Fluorescein angiography with interpretation and report
92235	Fluorescein angiography (includes multiframe imaging) with interpretation and report
92240	Indocyanine-green angiography (includes multiframe imaging) with interpretation and report