

## **Modifier 51 clarification**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) claims processing systems use code auditing tools to evaluate the accuracy and adherence of reported services to accepted national reporting standards. BCBSMT strives to inform its participating providers when changes or clarifications to those reporting standards are issued. The December 2013 issue of the CPT® Assistant contains a clarification in its Frequently Asked Questions regarding the 51 modifier. The clarification stated that when one of the Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment Codes, 98940, 98941, 98942, is reported for the appropriate number of regions treated with spinal manipulation and code 98943 is reported for extraspinal manipulation, it is not necessary to report modifier 51, as this is a separate and distinct procedure.

Please be aware for claims processed on the new claims software, if a 51 modifier is reported, the allowance for the service will be cutback by 50%, in accordance with the BCBSMT Compensation Policy for modifier 51.