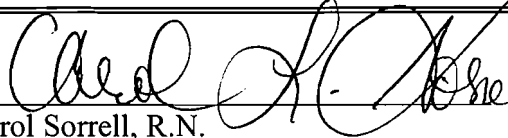
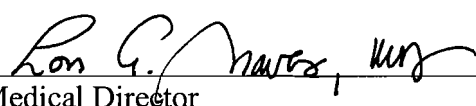
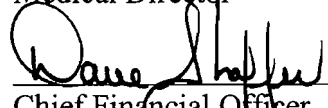

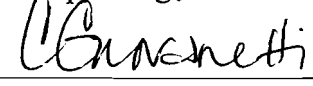
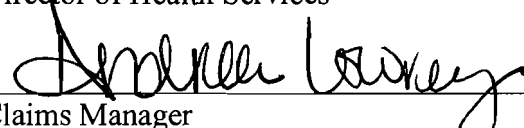


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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SUBJECT: Assistant Surgeon		INDEX NUMBER 6.09-P		Page 1 of 2	
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claims Manager					
Review Date	07/98	08/00	07/2004	11/2007	
Effective Date			11/06/04	01/24/08	
Revision No.	1998-07	2000-08	2004-08	2008-01	

Approved		Date	1/24/08
	Carol Sorrell, R.N. Chief Executive Officer		
Approved		Date	2/21/08
	Medical Director		
Approved		Date	2/25/08
	Chief Financial Officer		
Approved		Date	12/7/07
	Chief Operating Officer		
Approved		Date	11/9/07
	Director of Health Services		
Approved		Date	11/7/07
	Claims Manager		

POLICY¹:

Assistant Surgeons shall be reimbursed for designated surgical procedures identified as requiring an assistant surgeon.

PURPOSE:

To define process for determining reimbursement for assistant surgeon claims for eligible members with authorized surgeries.

PROCEDURE:

1.0 GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OF ASSISTANT SURGEON

Kern Health Systems (KHS) will use the American College of Surgeons (ASC) as its primary source for determining assistant surgeon designations. If the ASC has not designated assistant surgeon eligibility, or if the designation is "sometimes", the allowance of an assistant surgeon will

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be based on the medical necessity requiring an assistant surgeon for the procedure. The KHS Medical Director makes this determination based on the documentation provided by the surgeon.

2.0 AUTHORIZATION

Assistant surgeon services are included in surgery authorizations.

2.0 REIMBURSEMENT

The reimbursement allowance for an assistant surgeon is 20% of the KHS allowance for the surgery. The CPT modifier used to identify assistant surgeon claims is -80. However, modifier – AS should be used to bill for a Physician Assistant (PA) who serves as first or second assistant in surgery under an approved supervising physician.

¹ **Revision 2008-01:** Routine revision. **Revision 2004-08:** Routine revision.