

GENERAL PREAMBLE

SURGICAL ASSISTANTS' SERVICES

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS

In addition to the *common elements*, assistance at surgery includes the following *specific elements*.

- A. Preparing or supervising the preparation of the patient for the procedure.
- B. Performing the procedure by any method, or assisting another physician in the performance of the procedure(s), assisting with the carrying out of all recovery room procedures and the transfer of the patient to the recovery room, and any ongoing monitoring and detention rendered during the immediate post-operative and recovery period, when indicated.
- C. Making arrangements for any related assessments, procedures, or therapy, (including obtaining any specimens from the patient) and/or interpreting results.
- D. When medically indicated, monitoring the condition of the patient for post-procedure follow-up until the first post-operative visit.
- E. Discussion with, and providing any advice and information, including prescribing therapy to the patient or the *patient's representative*, whether by telephone or otherwise, on matters related to the service.
- F. Providing premises, equipment, supplies, and personnel for services identified with prefix # for any aspect(s) of A, C, D, and E that is (are) performed in a place other than the place in which the surgical procedure is performed.

While no occasion may arise for performing elements A, C, D or E, when performed in connection with the *specific elements* of a service, these are included in the service.

CALCULATION OF FEE PAYABLE: BASIC UNITS AND TIME UNITS

Except where "nil" is listed opposite the service in the column headed with "Asst", the amount payable for the surgical assistant service is calculated by adding together the number of basic and time units and multiplying that total by the unit fee.

Assistant Unit Fee **\$12.04**

Basic Units: The number of basic units is the number of units listed opposite the service in the column headed with "Asst", except

- a. where multiple or bilateral surgical procedures are performed during the same anaesthetic, the number of basic units is that listed in the column headed with "Asst" opposite the service that describes the major procedure; or
- b. where no basic unit is listed opposite the service in the column headed with "Asst" and where "nil" is not listed opposite the service in the column headed with "Anae", the number of basic units is that listed opposite the service under the column headed with "Anae". This type of service is *only eligible for payment* upon authorization by a *medical consultant* following submission of a letter from the surgeon outlining the reason the assistant was required. Submit claims for this type of service using fee code M400B.

Where "nil" is listed opposite the service in the column headed with "Asst", the assistant's service is *not eligible for payment*.

Time Units: For the purpose of calculating time units, time is determined per operation as the total of the following, excluding any time spent waiting between surgical procedures:

- a. time spent by the physician in direct contact with the patient in the operating room prior to scrub time to assist with patient preparation; and
- b. time spent by the physician assisting at the patient's surgery starting with scrub time and ending when the physician is no longer required to be in attendance with that patient.

Time units are calculated for each 15 minutes or part thereof. The unit value of each 15 minute period or part thereof is:

During the first hour or less.....	1 unit
After the first hour	2 units
After 2.5 hours	3 units

Claims submission instruction:

Submit claims for assisting at surgery using the suffix "B", with the procedural code.

[Commentary:

See Appendix H for a table stating the duration of surgical assisting and corresponding time units.]

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AFTER HOURS PREMIUMS

These premiums are payable when a case commences:

E400B	Evenings (17:00h – 24:00h) Monday to Friday or daytime and evenings on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays - increase the total assistant's fee by	50%
E401B	Nights (00:00h – 07:00h) - increase the total assistant's fee by	75%

REPLACEMENT SURGICAL ASSISTANT

When one surgical assistant ("the first assistant") starts a procedure and is replaced by another surgical assistant ("the replacement assistant") during a surgical procedure:

- a. The amount payable to the first assistant is calculated by adding the listed procedural basic units plus time units for the time the first assistant is in attendance.
- b. The service provided by the replacement assistant constitutes E005B based on the number of time units for the time the replacement assistant is in attendance.

Payment rules:

1. Base units are *not eligible for payment* to the replacement assistant.
2. Time units for the replacement assistant are calculated based on the total time the replacement assistant participates in the case. Time unit values are calculated in the same manner as would have applied to the original assistant had he/she not been replaced.

[Commentary:

As an example, if the original assistant is eligible for double time units when the replacement assistant takes over, the replacement assistant is also eligible for double time units.]

3. E400B or E401B is eligible for payment with E005B only if the beginning of the case commences after hours.

Medical record requirements:

E005B is *only eligible for payment* when the start and stop times are documented in the patient's permanent medical record.

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SPECIAL VISIT PREMIUMS

All special visit premiums are subject to the maximums, limitations and conditions set out in the "Special Visit Premium Table" applicable in the circumstances.

Sacrifice of Office Hours

[Commentary:

For the definition of Sacrifice of Office Hours, see GP44.]

C988B	Special visit premium to assist at non-elective surgery with sacrifice of office hours - first patient seen	76.40
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Payment rules:

C988B is *not eligible for payment* in respect of any special visits to assist at surgery in a calendar *month* if the amount payable for all surgical assistant's fees (including special visit premiums associated with performing surgical assistant services) rendered by the physician in that *month* is greater than 20% of the total amount payable for all insured services rendered by the physician in that *month*.

Evenings, Weekend/Holiday and Nights

C998B	Evenings (17:00h - 24:00h) Monday to Friday, first patient seen.....	60.00
C983B	Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays, daytime and evenings (07:00h -24:00h), first patient seen.....	75.00
C999B	Nights (00:00h - 07:00h), first patient seen	100.00

Payment rules:

1. C988B, C998B, C983B and C999B are *only eligible for payment* for the first patient seen on each special visit.
2. C988B, C998B, C983B, C999B are *only eligible for payment* when the physician is required to travel from one location to another location, as defined under "Travel Premium", page GP45.

[Commentary:

1. The specific requirements for special visits are found on pages GP44 to GP52.
2. These premiums are eligible for payment in addition to the E400 and E401 premiums.]

SPECIAL VISIT PREMIUM TABLE - SURGICAL ASSISTANT SERVICES

Surgical Assistant Services					
	Weekdays Daytime (07:00- 17:00)	Sacrifice of Office Hours	Evenings (17:00- 24:00) Monday through Friday	Sat., Sun. and Holidays (07:00- 24:00)	Nights (00:00- 07:00)
	\$0.00	\$76.40 C988B	\$60.00 C998B	\$75.00 C983B	\$100.00 C999B
Maximums (per time period)					
First person seen	0	1	2	6	unlimited

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CANCELLED SURGERY – ASSISTANT SERVICES

Payment rules:

1. If the procedure is cancelled prior to induction of anaesthesia, the service constitutes a subsequent hospital visit.
2. When an anaesthetic has begun but the operation is cancelled due to a complication prior to commencement of surgery and the assistant has scrubbed but is not required to do anything further, the service is payable as E006B with the actual number of time units added to 6 basic units for this service.

[Commentary:

If the operation is cancelled after surgery has commenced, the amount payable is calculated by adding the listed procedural basic units plus time units and multiplying the total by the unit fee listed at the start of this section.]

SECOND ASSISTANT

Payment rules:

When more than one assistant was required for a surgical procedure, unless the service is listed below, the second assistant's service is *only eligible for payment* following authorization by a *medical consultant* and requires submission of a letter from the surgeon outlining the reason the second assistant was required. The amount payable for the second assistant is calculated in the same manner as the amount payable for the first assistant.

Services where a second assistant's services are payable and authorization is not required:

E645	M111	M117	M134	M142	P042	P051	P052	P056	P059
R008	R009	R013	R014	R015	R016	R055	R056	R067	R069
R134	R135	R136	R140	R182	R240	R241	R244	R326	R327
R334	R393	R438	R440	R441	R483	R487	R545	R553	R568
R593	R594	R617	R645	R701	R702	R704	R712	R713	R714
R715	R718	R726	R727	R728	R729	R733	R734	R735	R737
R738	R742	R743	R746	R747	R749	R764	R770	R771	R772
R785	R786	R799	R800	R801	R802	R803	R804	R811	R815
R817	R818	R830	R832	R858	R863	R870	R872	R874	R876
R877	R927	R929	R920	R930	S005	S007	S090	S091	S092
S096	S098	S099	S120	S125	S189	S213	S214	S267	S270
S271	S274	S275	S294	S295	S298	S300	S321	S416	S429
S440	S441	S453	S454	S462	S484	S750	S758	S759	S816

SURGICAL ASSISTANT STANDBY

Definition/Required elements of service:

E101B is a time-based service limited to one surgical case per physician per day payable for standby as a surgical assistant following a minimum of 30 minutes of unforeseen delay beyond the scheduled start time for surgery. The physician must be physically present in the operating room suite for the period between the scheduled and actual surgical start time.

Payment rules:

1. For calculation of time units, the start time for this service commences 30 minutes after the scheduled surgical start time and ends when the surgery actually commences as recorded in the hospital's operating suite records. There are no basic units.
2. E101B is *not eligible for payment* if during the standby time for which E101B would otherwise be eligible for payment, other insured services are rendered for which payment is made by *OHIP*.

[Commentary:

E101B is payable with after hours premiums.]