

Discontinued Surgery – Can the Hospital Bill?

Scenario

Rudolph Florentine is scheduled for surgery. On the day of surgery, he is prepped for surgery and taken to the operating room. Prior to the administration of anesthesia, he complains of chest pain and his surgeon cancels the surgery.

Question

Can the hospital bill for services even though the surgery was not performed?

Answer

Yes, the Hospital can bill for the discontinued surgery by appending modifier 73 to the procedure. Modifier 73 can be utilized when all the following conditions are met:

- a. the planned procedure requires anesthesia
- b. the patient is prepared and brought to the Operating Room
- c. the surgery is discontinued due to the patient's condition or other unforeseen circumstances
- d. the surgery is discontinued prior to the administration of anesthesia