Surgical Assistant Items - Configuration

This article is part of the systems administration guide. You will require administration access to view the pages mentioned in this article.
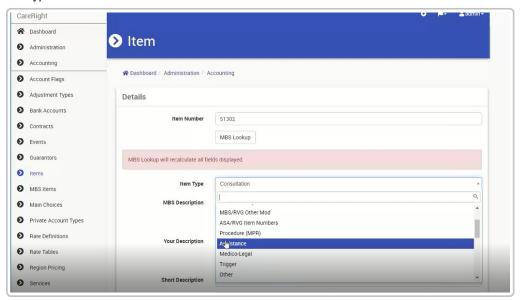
Setup Surgical Assistant Items

1. From **Administration**, Click **Accounting**

2. Click **Items**

3. Click on the **New** button

4. Enter the **Item Number**

   a. If you are billing as the assistant, "S" is added to Assistance item number, and it overrides any other procedure items by calculating the item as a derived price based on the assistance item. For example: MZ900S

   b. If you are billing on behalf of the assistant, no "S" is added to the Assistance item number, and the item is calculated as a derived price, being added to the list of items on the invoice. For example: MZ900
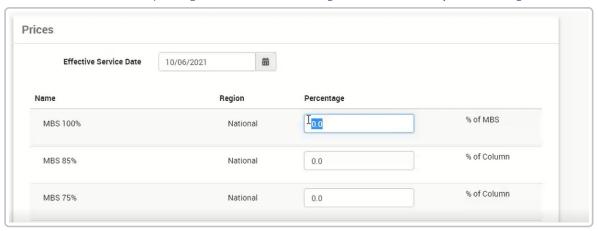
5. Set the **Item Type** as **Assistance**

6. Set the Item **Fee Type**

1. **Fixed Fee:** A fixed fee will be charged for the assistant

2. **Percentage:** A percentage of the total of all procedure charge will be calculated as the assistant fee

7. The Item price should be manually set in the percentage field as per the MBS pricing. Each Assistant item can be searched in MBS and the corresponding amount (Fixed/Percentage) should be manually set in CareRight.

8. The Item Fee Type can be identified from MBS.

Eg: Item 51303 Charges On-fifth of the scheduled fee, which is 20%,   **Item Fee Type: Percentage**.

Category 3 - THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES

TN.9.1   Assistance at Operations - (Items 51300 to 51318)

Items covering operations which are eligible for benefits for surgical assistance have been identified by the inclusion of the word "Assist." in the item description. Medicare benefits are not payable for surgical assistance associated with procedures which have not been so identified.

The assistance must be rendered by a medical practitioner other than the surgeon, the anaesthetist or the assistant anaesthetist.

Where more than one practitioner provides assistance to a surgeon no additional benefits are payable. The assistance benefit payable is the same irrespective of the number of practitioners providing surgical assistance.

NOTE: The Benefit in respect of assistance at an operation is not payable unless the assistance is rendered by a medical practitioner other than the anaesthetist or assistant anaesthetist. The amount specified is the amount payable whether the assistance is rendered by one or more medical practitioners.

Assistance at Multiple Operations

Where surgical assistance is provided at two or more operations performed on a patient on the one occasion the multiple operation formula is applied to all the operations to determine the surgeon's fee for Medicare benefits purposes. The multiple-operation formula is then applied to those items at which assistance was rendered and for which Medicare benefits for surgical assistance is payable to determine the abated fee level for assistance. The abated fee is used to determine the appropriate Schedule item covering the surgical assistance (ie either Item 51300 or 51303).

Multiple Operation Rule - Surgeon	Multiple Operation Rule - Assistant
Item A - $300@100%	Item A (Assist.) - $300@100%
Item B - $250@50%	Item B (No Assist.)
Item C - $200@25%	Item C (Assist.) - $200@50%
Item D - $150@25%	Item D (Assist.) - $150@25%

The derived fee applicable to Item 51303 is calculated on the basis of one-fifth of the abated Schedule fee for the surgery which attracts an assistance rebate.

Surgeons Operating Independently

9. Any Procedure Item (Item type: Procedure) that can not be charged for assistance should check the box: **Assist not eligible for fee**

MBS - Assistant Billing Parameters

☐ Assist not eligible for fee

10. Click **Create Item.**