



**Supporting Analysis:**

The dispute regards the payment amount for a laser procedure (37799) performed on 6/27/2013. The Claims Administrator based its reimbursement of the billed procedure code 37799 on 37730 indicating "The value of this procedure is based on 100% of 37730, which appears equal in scope and complexity to services rendered."

CPT 37799 - Unlisted procedure, vascular surgery. Per the Official Medical Fee Schedule, the procedure code 37799 does not have an assigned unit value and is considered a "By Report" code. Per the OMFS Surgery General Information and Ground Rules, procedures coded By Report are services which are unusual or variable. An unlisted service, or one that is rarely provided, unusual or variable, may require a report demonstrating the medical appropriateness of the service. Pertinent information should include an adequate definition or description of the nature or extent, and need for the procedure and the time, effort and equipment necessary to provide the service. By Report procedure values may also be determined by using the values assigned to a comparable procedure.

The Provider submitted an Endovenous Laser Therapy (EVLT) Operative Report. The EVLT procedure is described as a minimally invasive laser procedure in treating varicose veins. The operative report described an Endovenous Laser treatment of the great saphenous vein. The saphenous vein was entered percutaneously below the knee (2.0 cm below the Sapheno-Femoral Junction) under ultrasound guidance. The "600 Micron fiber" was introduced and position was determined by ultrasound guidance and duplex imaging. The current CPT used to describe EVLT procedure is 36478. The procedure code 36478 is not listed in the OMFS. The description of 36478 is "Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; first vein treated."

The Claims Administrator based its reimbursement on CPT 37730. The description of CPT 37730 is "Ligation and division and complete stripping of long and short saphenous veins." The operative report did not indicate the Endovenous Laser treatment included the short saphenous vein. Based on a review of the operative report and procedure description, the OMFS procedure codes comparable in description and scope are 37720, 76942 Modifier 26 and 93971 Modifier 26. The description of CPT 37720 is "Ligation and division and complete stripping of long or short saphenous veins." The description of CPT 76942 is "Ultrasonic guidance for needle biopsy." The description of 93971 is "Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; unilateral or limited study."

The claim form and medical record indicated the services were performed at an ambulatory surgery center. The professional component for the ultrasound guidance code (76942) and duplex scan code (93971) were allowed based on the use of the place of service code 24 (Ambulatory Surgical Center) and location of services rendered.

There is no additional reimbursement warranted for the Endovenous Laser Treatment code 37799, based on the recommended OMFS codes (37720, 76942 Modifier 26 and 93971 Modifier 26) and the Claims Administrator's previous payment of \$617.74

The chart below provides a comparison of billed charges and reimbursement rates for the codes and dates of services at issue.

Validated Code	Dispute Amount	Total Fee Schedule Allowance	Provider Paid Amount	Allowed Recommended Reimbursement	Fee Schedule Utilized
37799 (37720, 76942 26 and 93971 26)	\$4,382.26	\$583.69	\$617.74	\$0.00	PPO Contract

**Chief Coding Specialist Decision Rationale:**

This decision was based on OMFS Surgery Ground Rules and Guidelines, medical record and comparison with explanation of review (EOR). This was determined correctly by the Claims Administrator and the payment of \$617.74 is upheld.

This decision constitutes the final determination of the Division of Workers' Compensation Administrative Director, is binding on all parties, and is not subject to further appeal except as specified in Labor Code section 4603.6(f)

Sincerely,

██████████, RHIT

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