MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.
Independent Bill Review
P.O. Box 138006
Sacramento, CA 95813-8006
Fax: (916) 605-4280

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

December 3, 2014

[redacted]

IBR Case Number:	CB13-0000664	**Date of Injury:**	03/01/2013
Claim Number:	[redacted]	**Application Received:**	10/30/2013
Claims Administrator:	[redacted]	**Assignment Date:**	10/07/2014
Provider Name:	[redacted]		
Employee Name:	[redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	29881 and 29875-59		

Dear [redacted]

MAXIMUS Federal Services has completed the Independent Bill Review ("IBR") of the above workers' compensation case. This letter provides you with the IBR Final Determination and explains how the determination was made.

Final Determination: OVERTURN. MAXIMUS Federal Services has determined that additional reimbursement is warranted. The Claims Administrator's determination is reversed and the Claim Administrator owes the Provider additional reimbursement of $335.00 for the review cost and $1336.88 in additional reimbursement for a total of $1671.88. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of $1671.88 within 45 days of the date on this letter per section 4603.2 (2a) of the California Labor Code. The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its expert reviewer is deemed to be the Final Determination of the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation. This determination is binding on all parties. In certain limited circumstances, you can appeal the Final Determination. Appeals must be filed with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board within 20 days from the date of this letter. For more information on appealing the final determination, please see California Labor Code Section 4603.6(f).

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Chief Coding Reviewer

cc: [redacted]

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Pertinent documents reviewed to reach the determination:

- The Independent Bill Review Application
- The original billing itemization
- Supporting documents submitted with the original billing
- Explanation of Review in response to the original bill
- Request for Second Bill Review and documentation
- Supporting documents submitted with the request for second review
- The final explanation of the second review
- Official Medical Fee Schedule
- Negotiated contracted rates: [redacted]
- National Correct Coding Initiatives
- Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

HOW THE IBR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services Chief Coding Specialist reviewed the case file and researched pertinent coding and billing standards to reach a determination. In some cases a physician reviewer was employed to review the clinical aspects of the care to help make a determination. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services.

ANALYSIS AND FINDING

Based on review of the case file the following is noted:

- **ISSUE IN DISPUTE**: Denial of CPT code 29875-59 and underpayment of 29881.
- Based on the NCCI edits the use of code 29875 is suspect when submitted with CPT code 29881.
- CPT code 29875-59 should be reimbursed as it is documented in the operative report as a separate and distinct service. The patient had a meniscus tear and synovitis with a periarticular cyst. The Provider indicated separate services as well as appended an appropriate modifier to note the service was separate and distinct.
- Contract discount of 8 percent applied.
- Reimbursement calculated as follows:
  29881 = Adjusted CF 80.45 * RW 29.6106 * Multi. 1.22 * PPO discount .92 = $2673.75
  29875-59 = Adjusted CF 80.45 * RW 29.6106 * Multi. 1.22 * .5 * PPO discount .92 = $1336.88

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of $1336.88 is due to the Provider based on reimbursement of code 29875.

Date of Service: 6/19/2013						
Service Code	**Provider Billed**	**Plan Allowed**	**Dispute Amount**	**Multi Surg.**	**Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.**	**Notes**
29875	$4975.00	$0	$1328.51	N/A	$1336.88	**DISPUTED SERVICE**: Additional reimbursement of $1336.88 to be made.
29881	$5000.00	$2673.75	$0	100%	$2673.75	**DISPUTED SERVICE**: No additional reimbursement warranted.

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

File	**Column 1**	**Column 2**	**Modifier**
Hospital APC Version 19.1	29881	29875	Allowed

Copy to:

[redacted]

Copy to:

[redacted]