

**INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION**

April 1, 2015

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

<b>IBR Case Number:</b>	CB14-0001907	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	12/05/1960
<b>Claim Number:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/10/2014
<b>Claims Administrator:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Assignment Date:</b>	02/02/2015
<b>Provider Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Employee Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Disputed Codes:</b>	99215		

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: UPHOLD. MAXIMUS Federal Services has determined that no additional reimbursement is warranted. The Claims Administrator’s determination is upheld and the Claim Administrator does not owe the Provider additional reimbursement. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.**

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,

Paul Manchester, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director

cc: [REDACTED]  
[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
- OMFS

## 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:** Provider seeking remuneration for 99215 Evaluation and Management services performed on 07/08/2014.
- The Claims Administrator applied Evaluation and Management 99214 reimbursement with the following rationale: “the history is detailed, the examination is detailed, and the medical decision making to be low complexity. In this instance, procedure 99214 appears more appropriate.”
- The determination of an Evaluation and Management service for Established Patients require **two** of **three** key components in the following areas:
  - 1) **History:** Chief Complaint, History of Present Illness, Review of Systems (Inventory of Body Systems), Past Family and Social History.
  - 2) **Examination:** 1997 documentation guidelines Problem Focused, Expanded Problem Focused, Detailed Comprehensive “(General multi-system examination, or complete examination of a single organ system or other symptomatic related body area(s) or organ system(s).”
  - 3) **Medical Decision Making** **Medical** decision making refers to the complexity of establishing a diagnosis and/or selecting a management option, which is determined by considering the following factors:

- a. The number of possible diagnoses and/or the number of management options that must be considered;
  - b. The amount and/or complexity of medical records, diagnostic tests, and/or other information that must be obtained, reviewed, and analyzed; and
  - c. The risk of significant complications, morbidity, and/or mortality as well as comorbidities associated with the patient’s presenting problem(s), the diagnostic procedure(s), and/or the possible management options.
- 1997 Evaluation and Management Levels/Elements (History / Exam / Medical Decision Making), Established Patient:
  - 99212: Problem Focused / Problem Focused / Straight Forward
  - 99213: Expanded Problem Focused / Expanded Problem Focused / Low Complexity
  - 99214: Detailed History / Detailed Exam / Moderate Complexity
  - 99215 Comprehensive/ Comprehensive/ High Complexity
- **Time:** In the case where counseling and/or coordination of care dominates (more than 50%) of the physician/patient and/or family encounter (face-to-face time in the office or other outpatient setting or floor/unit time in the hospital or nursing facility), time is considered the key or controlling factor to qualify for a particular level of E/M services. The total length of time of the encounter (faced-to-face) should be documented and **the record should describe the counseling and/or activities to coordinate care.**
- Abstracted information date of service 07/08/2014 resulted in the following Established Evaluation and Management service:
  - Detailed History/Detailed Exam/Moderate Complexity
    - History: Past Family & Family History = “See Initial Report.” Initial Report not availed for IBR. As such, IBR not able to verify Past Family and Family History addressed.
    - Exam: Detailed 12 + elements for Musculoskeletal Exam.
    - Medical Decision Making
      - Concur with “Moderate” as reflected on Davidson Table.
- Time Factor for date of service:
  - “43 minutes” documented. However, the description of counseling and/or activities to coordinate care is not provided as indicated by Evaluation and Management time based codes.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

**DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: CPT 99215**

<b>Date of Service:</b> 07/08/2014							
<b>Physician Services</b>							
<b>Service Code</b>	<b>Provider Billed</b>	<b>Plan Allowed</b>	<b>Dispute Amount</b>	<b>Assist Surgeon</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.</b>	<b>Notes</b>
99215	\$166.31	\$112.63	\$53.00	N/A	1	\$112.63	<b>Refer to Analysis</b>

Copy to:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Copy to:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]