

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Bill Review
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INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

September 21, 2015

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0001394	Date of Injury:	02/19/2013
Claim Number:	[Redacted]	Application Received:	08/20/2015
Claims Administrator:	[Redacted]		
Date(s) of service:	01/30/2015		
Provider Name:	[Redacted]		
Employee Name:	[Redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	25320-RT-59, 25332-RT, and 29844-RT-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 \$195.00 for the review cost and \$3089.60 in additional reimbursement for a total of \$3284.60. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of \$3284.60 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,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
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
- Official Medical Fee Schedule
- Negotiated contracted rates: N/A
- 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:** Provider is dissatisfied with reimbursement of codes 25320-RT-59, 25332-RT, and 29844-RT-59
- Claims Administrator reimbursed a total of \$5845.35
- For services rendered on or after September 1, 2014: APC relative weight x adjusted conversion factor x 1.212 workers' compensation multiplier, pursuant to Section 9789.30(aa). See Section 9789.39(b) for the APC relative weight by date of service.
- As a code pair does exist between codes 25332 and 29844, modifier indicator column shows '1' which states that if an approved modifier is appended to the column '2' code and documentation is submitted to support billed code, then the edit may be overridden.
- 29844 was billed with approved modifier –RT and -59.
- Provider's report documents synovectomy performed due to "hypertrophic synovitis along the ulnar border of the proximal carpal row"..."We then removed the instruments from the wrist joint"..."We then made an incision over the dorsal radial aspect of the right hand centered over the trapezium"
- Documentation supports separate procedures of the synovectomy and arthroplasty.
- Opportunity for Claims Administrator letter was sent on 8/21/2015. A response from Claims Administrator was not received for this review.

