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

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

June 16, 2015

[redacted]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0000446	Date of Injury:	02/04/2013
Claim Number:	[redacted]	Application Received:	03/27/2015
Claims Administrator:	[redacted]		
Date Assigned:	4/24/2015		
Provider Name:	[redacted]		
Employee Name:	[redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	20526-59-LT		

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 $64.06 in additional reimbursement for a total of $259.06. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of $259.06 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]

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:
- National Correct Coding Initiatives

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 denial of code 20526-59-LT
- Claims Administrator denied code indicating on the Explanation of Review "Service/item included in the value of other services per CCI edits. Related service could be on separate bill"
- As a pair edit does exist between billed code 20605 and 20526-59, generally these two codes are not billed together. However, Modifier Indicator column shows '1' which states that if an approved modifier is appended to the appropriate billed code, and documentation supports the use of billed code, then the edit may be overridden.
- Provider billed 20526 with a modifier -59 which is an approved modifier per NCCI
- Provider's report submitted documents an injection performed to the left first dorsal compartment and then a second and separate injection into the left carpal tunnel. Provider also documents separate diagnosis codes for both injections as well.
- Based on information reviewed, reimbursement of 20526-59 is warranted.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 20526-59-LT is recommended.

Date of Service: 12/16/2014							
Physician Services							
Service Code	**Provider Billed**	**Plan Allowed**	**Dispute Amount**	**Units**	**Multiple Surgery**	**Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.**	**Notes**
20526-59-LT	$180.00	$0.00	$64.06	1	50%	$64.06	**DISPUTED SERVICE**: Allow reimbursement $64.06

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

File	**Column 1**	**Column 2**	**Modifier**
Physician Version Number: 20.3	20605	20526	Allowed

Copy to:

[redacted]

Copy to:

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