

Supporting Analysis:

The dispute regards the payment amount for surgical procedures (17304, 17999 59) for date of service 9/11/2013. The Claims Administrator reimbursed \$208.08 on procedure code 17304 with the explanation "The skin repair by adjacent tissue transfer was done by another Provider is the primary procedure as it was done in the same operative session. Please refer to OMFS guidelines for multiple procedure guidelines." The Claims Administrator reimbursed \$94.29 for the billed procedure code 17999 with the explanation "The value of this procedure is based on 25% of 17107, which appears equal in scope and complexity to services rendered. Area 24.8 sq cm."

CPT 17304 - Chemosurgery (Mohs' micrographic technique), including removal of all gross tumor, surgical excision of tissue specimens, mapping, color coding of specimens, microscopic examination of specimens by the surgeon, and complete histopathologic preparation; first stage, fresh tissue technique, of up to 5 specimens.

CPT 17999 - The description of the billed procedure code 17999 is "Unlisted procedure, skin, mucous membrane and subcutaneous tissue." Per the Official Medical Fee Schedule, the procedure code 17999 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.

Modifier 59 - Distinct Procedural Service

The Provider submitted operative reports for the skin repair by adjacent tissue transfer procedure (Island Pedicle Flap), Mohs surgery, and CO2 Matrix Fractional Ablative Laser Reconstructive Surgery (17999). The skin repair by adjacent tissue transfer (Island Pedicle Flap) was performed by a different physician of a different specialty (Plastic Surgery). A separate operative report was submitted for the Island Pedicle Flap procedure, the report documented a different attending surgeon's name. If surgeons of different specialties are each performing a different procedure, then multiple surgery rules do not apply. If one of the surgeons performs multiple procedures, the multiple procedure rules apply to that surgeon's services. The Claims Administrator's decision to reduce the procedure (17304) to 50% as a secondary surgical procedure was not correct. The billed procedure code 17304 should have been reimbursed as the primary procedure at 100% of listed value.

The second disputed code is procedure code 17999. The Provider submitted a separate operative report for this procedure. The operative report submitted by the Provider did not document an adequate procedure description, complexity or the amount of time required for the procedure. Per the operative report, procedure performed was CO2 Fractional Ablative Resurfacing, location was "Left Nose", and the spot size was 6mm. Based on the documentation submitted, a comparable procedure code or By Report allowance higher than the Claims Administrator's reimbursement of procedure code 17107 could not be determined. The description of 17107 is "Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (e.g., laser technique); 10 cm. – 50 sq. cm."

The Provider billed three surgical procedure codes (17304, 17305 and 17999) for date of service 9/11/2013. The allowance for primary procedure code 17304 should have been reimbursed at 100% of the PPO allowance. The reduction of third procedure code 17999 (17107) to 25% of the PPO allowance by the Claims Administrator was correct.

The additional reimbursement of \$208.08 is warranted per the Official Medical Fee Schedule code 17304. There is no additional reimbursement warranted per the Official Medical Fee Schedule code 17999 (17107) Modifier 59.

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

Validated Code	Validated Modifier	Validated Units	Dispute Amount	Total Fee Schedule Allowance	Provider Paid Amount	Allowed Recommended Reimbursement	Fee Schedule Utilized
17304		1	\$791.92	\$416.16	\$208.08	\$208.08	PPO Contract
17999	59	1	\$1,447.98	\$52.02	\$52.02	\$0.00	PPO Contract

MAXIMUS Federal Services, as the Independent Bill Review Organization, has determined the Claims Administrator owes the Provider additional reimbursement. The Claims Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider for the IBR application fee (**\$335.00**) and the OMFS amount for CPT code 17304 (\$208.08) for a total of \$543.08.

*The Claims Administrator is required to reimburse the provider \$543.08 within **45 days of date on this notice per section 4603.2 (2a)**. 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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