

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

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



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**INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION**

November 6, 2014

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

<b>IBR Case Number:</b>	CB14-0000152	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/09/2013
<b>Claim Number:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/07/2014
<b>Claims Administrator:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Provider Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Employee Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Disputed Codes:</b>	29876-51		

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.

IBR Assigned: 10/15/2014

**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,

[REDACTED]  
Chief Coding Reviewer

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: none
- 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 29876.
- Based on the NCCI edits the use of code 29876 is suspect when submitted with CPT code 29880.
- Based on review of the operative report 29880 should be paid as the primary procedure.
- The provider did not append a modifier indicating a separate and distinct procedure to the correct code (the column 2 procedure,) therefore no additional reimbursement should be made for CPT code 29876.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

**DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE:** No additional reimbursement made to CPT Code 29876.

<b>Date of Service:</b> 9/21/2013						
<b>Service Code</b>	<b>Provider Billed</b>	<b>Plan Allowed</b>	<b>Dispute Amount</b>	<b>Multi Surg.</b>	<b>Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.</b>	<b>Notes</b>
29876-51	\$ 5189.12	\$ 0	\$ 5189.12	50%	\$0	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Do not allow reimbursement as appropriate modifier not appended.
29880-59	\$ 5189.12	\$ 1800.03	\$0	100%	Not in Dispute	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Allow secondary reimbursement of this service

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

<b>File</b>	<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Modifier</b>
Hospital APC Version 19.2	29880	29876	Allowed

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