

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

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



---

**INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION**

November 24, 2014

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

|                              |                        |                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>IBR Case Number:</b>      | CB14-0000159           | <b>Date of Injury:</b>       | 05/16/2012 |
| <b>Claim Number:</b>         | [Redacted]             | <b>Application Received:</b> | 02/11/2014 |
| <b>Claims Administrator:</b> | [Redacted]             | <b>Assignment Date:</b>      | 04/14/2014 |
| <b>Provider Name:</b>        | [Redacted]             |                              |            |
| <b>Employee Name:</b>        | [Redacted]             |                              |            |
| <b>Disputed Codes:</b>       | 29827, 29824 and 29826 |                              |            |

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 \$335.00 for the review cost and \$3333.49 in additional reimbursement for a total of \$3668.49. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.**

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of \$3668.49 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,

[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 attached
- National Correct Coding Initiatives, Hospital APC Version 19.3
- 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 29824 and 29826 and underpayment of CPT code 29827.
- Based on the NCCI edit 29824 and 29826 should be reimbursed as there are no NCCI edit conflicts.
- Based on review of the operative report there is documentation showing 29824 and 29826 were performed and are reimbursable with primary CPT code 29827.
- The Claim Administrator has indicated that reimbursement cannot be made as the Provider submitted a billed amount of \$0 for these services. Reimbursement for these services is made under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System which sets reimbursement rates prospectively and not based on billed amounts.
- No documentation in the case file of a PPO contract therefore no discount applied.
- Reimbursement to be set as follows:  
 $29827 = 54.4111 * 80.45 * 1.22 = \$5340.40$   
 $29824 = 29.6106 * 80.45 * 1.22 * .5 = \$1453.13$   
 $29826 = 29.6106 * 80.45 * 1.22 * .5 = \$1453.13$

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

**DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of codes 29824 and 29826 to be made to the Provider at the amount listed below. Additional reimbursement of \$427.23 for code 29827 to be made to the Provider as no documentation of the discount included in the case file. An additional \$3333.49 is owed to the Provider.**

| Date of Service: 10/2/2013 |                 |              |                   |             |                            |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| Service Code               | Provider Billed | Plan Allowed | Dispute Amount    | Multi Surg. | Workers' Comp Allowed Amt. | Notes  |
| 29824                      | \$ 0            | \$ 0         | \$2673.74         | 50%         | \$1453.13                  | <b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Service substantiated, reimburse \$1453.13      |
| 29826                      | \$ 0            | \$ 0         | Included in above | 50%         | \$1453.13                  | <b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Service substantiated, reimburse \$1453.13      |
| 29827                      | \$5340.40       | \$ 4913.17   | Included in above | 100%        | \$5340.40                  | <b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Primary service. Reimburse additional \$427.23. |

Copy to:

  
  
  


Copy to:

  
  
