

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

December 19, 2014

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

IBR Case Number:	CB14-0001458	Date of Injury:	09/04/2013
Claim Number:	[Redacted]	Application Received:	09/29/2014
Claims Administrator:	[Redacted]	Assignment Date:	10/29/2014
Provider Name:	[Redacted]		
Employee Name:	[Redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	29824, 29821-59-51		

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.

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]
Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC) Medical Unit

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: no contract included
- 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 29821 and reimbursement of CPT code 29824 less than expected.
- Based on the NCCI edits the use of code 29821 is suspect when submitted with CPT code 29824.
- Based on review of the operative report, the synovectomy (29821) is not separate and distinct from the excision of the distal clavicle (29824). Therefore CPT code 29821-59-51 should be denied reimbursement.
- A 10% PPO discount is to be applied. Although a contract is not included in the case file a representative from the Provider has confirmed that a 10% discount is applicable.
- Reimbursement for CPT code 29824 calculated as follows:
Adjusted CF \$80.45 x APC RW 29.6106 x WC Mult. .82 * .9 = \$1758.04

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 29821-59-51 should be denied and no additional reimbursement warranted for CPT code 29824.

Date of Service: 9/18/2014						
Service	Provider	Plan	Dispute	Mult	Workers'	Notes

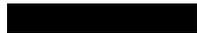
Code	Billed	Allowed	Amount	Surg	Comp Allowed Amt.	
29821-59-51	\$1933.09	\$0	\$1933.09		\$0	DISPUTED SERVICE: Denial appropriate.
29824	\$3866.17	\$2689.10	\$1177.07	100%	\$1758.04	DISPUTED SERVICE: No additional reimbursement warranted. Provider has been paid amount higher than calculated allowable amount.

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

File	Column 1	Column 2	Modifier
Hospital APC Version 19.3	29824	29821	Allowed

Copy to:






Copy to:

Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Unit
 1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
 Oakland, CA 94612