

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

November 7, 2014

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB14-0000416	Date of Injury:	01/25/2013
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	03/19/2014
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Provider Name:	[REDACTED]		
Employee Name:	[REDACTED]		
Disputed Codes:	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.

IBR Assigned: 05/21/2014

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 included
- National Correct Coding Initiatives
- Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)
- Other: none

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 29826.
- Based on the NCCI edits CPT code 29826 is suspect when submitted with code 23120. The provider did not submit an appropriate modifier to indicate a separate and distinct service, therefore code 29826 should not be paid.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 29826 should not be made.

Date of Service: 12/17/2013						
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Mult Surg	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
29826	\$5220.00	\$0	\$ 2019.07	50%	\$ 0.00	DISPUTED SERVICE: Deny reimbursement.
23120-51	\$ 5670.30	\$ 1063.88	\$ 0.00	50%	Not in Dispute	Service not in dispute

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

File	Column 1	Column 2	Modifier
Hospital APC Version 19.3	23120	29826	Allowed

Copy to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Copy to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]