

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

January 8, 2015

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

IBR Case Number:	CB14-0001537	Date of Injury:	06/13/2012
Claim Number:	[Redacted]	Application Received:	10/14/2014
Claims Administrator:	[Redacted]	Assignment Date:	11/10/2014
Provider Name:	[Redacted]		
Employee Name:	[Redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	99215		

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 \$250.00 for the review cost and \$125.14 in additional reimbursement for a total of \$375.14. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of \$375.14 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]
Medical Director

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:
- National Correct Coding Initiatives
- Other: AMA CPT 2014

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:** Provider is dissatisfied with denial of code 99215.
- Claims Administrator denied code indicating on the Explanation of Review “Service/item included in the value of other services per CCI edits. Related service could be on separate bill.”
- Provider billed codes 99215 along with 20605. Per NCCI edits, generally these two codes are not reported together. However, Modifier Indicator column shows ‘1’ which states if the appropriate modifier is appended to the correct CPT code, and documentation submitted supports the use of the code, then the edit may be overridden.
- Provider billed 99215 with a modifier -25 which NCCI states is one of the appropriate modifiers to use.
- Based on review of the Primary Treating Physician Report (PR-2), the Evaluation and Management visit is supported along with the other code billed.
- Provider billed a 99215 - Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires at least 2 of these 3 key components: A comprehensive history; a comprehensive examination; Medical decision making of high complexity.

- Although the report does not substantiate the highest E/M service, it does meet the requirements of 99214. Therefore, reimbursement of CPT 99214 is warranted based on information reviewed.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 99214 is warranted.

Date of Service: 05/29/2014							
Physician Services							
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Units	Multiple Surgery	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
99215 to 99214	\$167.15	\$0.00	\$167.15	1	N/A	\$125.14	DISPUTED SERVICE: Allow reimbursement \$125.14

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