

**INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION**

March 26, 2015

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB14-0001969	Date of Injury:	06/26/2013
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	12/22/2014
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Assigned Date:	1/27/2015		
Provider Name:	[REDACTED]		
Employee Name:	[REDACTED]		
Disputed Codes:	99358, 96101 & 96116		

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,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH  
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

## 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 codes 99358, 96101 & 96116
- Provider billed code 99358 for record review of 15 minutes. Effective 1/1/2014, record review is no longer separately reimbursed. 99358 now has a status indicator 'B' for bundled service, payment for this service is bundled into payment for other services not specified. Therefore, reimbursement of code 99358 is not warranted.
- Claims administrator denied codes 96101 and 96116 indicating on the Explanation of Review "No separate payment was made because the value of the service is included within the value of another service performed on the same day" and "Your billing has been reviewed using the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits. A procedure code has been billed which was rendered out of the context for which it was intended; the service would not typically be performed with the other procedure(s) billed."
- Pursuant Title 8 CCR Physician Fee Schedule 1/1/2014, § 9789.12.13 Correct Coding Initiative: (a) The National Correct Coding Initiative Edits ("NCCI") adopted by the CMS shall apply to payments for medical services under the Physician Fee Schedule. Except where payment ground rules differ from the Medicare ground rules, claims administrators shall apply the NCCI physician coding edits and medically unlikely edits to bills to determine appropriate payment. Claims Administrators shall utilize the National Correct Coding Initiative Coding Policy Manual for Medicare Services. If a

billing is reduced or denied reimbursement because of application of the NCCI, the claims administrator must notify the physician or qualified non-physician practitioner of the basis for the denial, including the fact that the determination was made in accordance with the NCCI.

- Provider billed codes 96101 and 96116 along with 99205. Generally 96101 and 96116 are not billed with 99205, however, Modifier Indicator column shows ‘1’ which states if the correct code is appended with a qualifying modifier, and documentation is submitted to support the code billed, then the edit may be overridden. Provider did not append an appropriate modifier for codes 96101 and 96116.
- Based on Correct Coding Guidelines, reimbursement of codes 96101 and 96116 is not warranted.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of codes 99358, 96101 & 96116 is not recommended.

Date of Service: 5/29/2014							
Physician Services							
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Units	Multiple Surgery	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
99358	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	1	N/A	\$0.00	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> No reimbursement recommended
96101	\$1500.00	\$0.00	\$1500.00	10	N/A	\$0.00	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> No reimbursement recommended
96116	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	2	N/A	\$0.00	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> No reimbursement recommended

National Correct Coding Initiative information:

File	Column 1	Column 2	Modifier Allowed
Physician Version Number: 20.1	99205	96101	Yes
Physician Version Number: 20.1	99205	96116	Yes

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