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## INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

October 6, 2015

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0001588	Date of Injury:	02/04/2013
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	09/14/2015
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Date(s) of service:	06/23/2015		
Provider Name:	[REDACTED]		
Employee Name:	[REDACTED]		
Disputed Codes:	99214-24		

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 \$195.00 for the review cost and \$119.64 in additional reimbursement for a total of \$314.64. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.**

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of \$314.64 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,

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: 10% PPO Discount
- 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 99214-24
- Claims Administrator's rationale for denial "No separately payment was made because the value of the service is included within another service"
- Provider states the injured worker has two injuries, one to the shoulder and the other is the low back for which the Provider was billing the follow up visit as the 99214-24.
- Provider billed code 99214-24 along with WC002, which was reimbursed by Claims Administrator, and 99024 for a post-op visit on the patient's shoulder on a CMS 1500. Diagnosis on the CMS form shows CPT 99214-24 with Diagnosis Pointer A: 722.10 – displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy; CPT 99024 with Diagnosis Pointer as B: 726.10 – Disorders of bursae and tendons in shoulder region.
- Provider billed code 99214 with modifier -24 – Unrelated Evaluation and Management Service by the same physician during a postoperative period.
- PR-2 submitted documents "the patient returns today for follow-up with persistent pain in the lower back which she rates at 5-6/10..."
- Opportunity for Claims Administrator to Dispute letter was sent on 9/15/2015. A response from the Claims Administrator was not received for this review.
- Based on information reviewed and coding guidelines, reimbursement of 99214-24 is warranted.
- EOR reflects a 10% PPO discount to be applied to reimbursement.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 99214-24

Date of Service: 06/23/2015						
Physician Services						
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Units	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
99214-24	\$172.81	\$0.00	\$172.81	1	\$119.64	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Allow reimbursement \$119.64

Copy to:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
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