
INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

October 6, 2015

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0001589	Date of Injury:	06/20/2012
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	09/14/2015
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Date(s) of service:	06/15/2015		
Provider Name:	[REDACTED]		
Employee Name:	[REDACTED]		
Disputed Codes:	99215-24		

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: 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: N/A
- 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 99215-24
- Claims Administrator's rationale for denial "The Provider billed for a visit on the same day of surgery or within the follow-up of a previously performed surgery"
- Provider states the injured worker has two injuries, one to the lumbar spine and the other is the left knee.
- Provider billed modifier -24: Unrelated evaluation and management service by the same physician during the postoperative period.
- Provider states the injured worker is still within the postoperative period from lumbar spine surgery on 3/19/2015.
- Provider billed code 99215-24 on a CMS 1500 with diagnosis pointer as A: 847.2 – sprain of lumbar; B: 719.46 – pain in joint, lower leg; and C: V45.89 – other post-procedural status.
- PR-2 submitted documents "the patient returns today for follow-up with persistent pain in the lower back which she rates at 5/10 but it is improving with her physical therapy. It still radiates to the hips with sometimes occasional numbness down to the left lateral aspect of the thigh. The left knee pain is at 6/10. She is also complaining of right knee pain at 6-7/10 and constant"
- Based on information reviewed and coding guidelines, reimbursement of 99215-24 is not warranted.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 99215-24

Date of Service: 06/15/2015						
Physician Services						
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Units	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
99215-24	\$172.81	\$0.00	\$172.81	1	\$0.00	DISPUTED SERVICE: Reimbursement not recommended.

Copy to:

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