

**INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION**

October 14, 2015

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0001647	Date of Injury:	06/28/2014
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	09/18/2015
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Date(s) of service:	05/05/2015		
Provider Name:	[REDACTED]		
Employee Name:	[REDACTED]		
Disputed Codes:	99354 and 99355		

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 \$226.02 in additional reimbursement for a total of \$421.02. A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.**

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of \$421.02 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: 5% 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 codes 99354, Prolonged service in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct patient contact beyond the usual service; **first hour** (List separately in addition to code for office or other outpatient Evaluation and Management service) and 99355, Prolonged service in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct patient contact beyond the usual service; **each additional 30 minutes** (List separately in addition to code for prolonged service)
- Claims Administrator's denial rational "a prolonged service involves face-to-face patient contact that is beyond the usual service in either an inpatient or outpatient setting"
- Provider submitted a standard Form 5021 along with a narrative Doctors First Report Addendum which documents "time spent with the patient today: 2 hours and 19 minutes"
- Based on documentation and guidelines, reimbursement of 99354 and 99355 is warranted.
- EOR reflects a 5% PPO discount to be applied to reimbursement.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of codes 99354 and 99355

<b>Date of Service:</b> 05/05/2015						
<b>Physician Services</b>						
<b>Service Code</b>	<b>Provider Billed</b>	<b>Plan Allowed</b>	<b>Dispute Amount</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.</b>	<b>Notes</b>
99354	\$120.68	\$0.00	\$120.68	1	\$114.65	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Allow reimbursement \$114.65
99355	\$117.87	\$0.00	\$117.87	1	\$111.37	<b>DISPUTED SERVICE:</b> Allow reimbursement \$111.37

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