MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.
Independent Bill Review
P.O. Box 138006
Sacramento, CA 95813-8006
Fax: (916) 605-4280

INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

June 17, 2015

[redacted]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0000464	Date of Injury:	05/23/2010
Claim Number:	[redacted]	Application Received:	03/30/2015
Claims Administrator:	[redacted]		
Date Assigned:	4/27/2015		
Provider Name:	[redacted]		
Employee Name:	[redacted]		
Disputed Codes:	99204		

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 $62.43 in additional reimbursement for a total of $257.43.A detailed explanation of the decision is provided later in this letter.

The Claim Administrator is required to reimburse the Provider a total of $257.43 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]

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: PPO Discount 5%
- 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 reimbursement of 99204
- Claims Administrator down-coded 99204 to a 99203 indicating on the Explanation of Review "The billed code does not meet the requirements of a consultation(see the General Information and Instructions Section…)"
- (2) In the office or other outpatient setting where a consultation / evaluation is performed, physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners shall use the CPT visit codes (99201 – 99215) depending on the complexity of the visit and whether the patient is a new or established patient to that physician, as defined in section 9789.12.11.
- 99204 - Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: A comprehensive history; A comprehensive examination; Medical decision making of moderate complexity.
- Provider's report submitted, Orthopaedic Consultation, documents all criteria necessary to qualify for a 99204.
- Based on information reviewed, reimbursement of 99204 is warranted.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: Reimbursement of code 99204 is recommended

Date of Service: 11/24/2014							
Physician Services							
Service Code	**Provider Billed**	**Plan Allowed**	**Dispute Amount**	**Units**	**Multiple Surgery**	**Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.**	**Notes**
99204	$275.00	$119.12	$155.88	1	N/A	$181.55	**DISPUTED SERVICE**: Allow reimbursement $62.43

Copy to:

[redacted]

Copy to:

[redacted]