

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
- DMEPOS
- MTUS
- PubMed
- Official Medical Fee Schedule
- PPO Contract

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 seeking full remuneration E1399 –LL Durable Medical Equipment Unlisted Code dispensed to Injured Worker for use at home; date of service 07/20/2015.**
- The Claims Administrator reimbursed the Provider for **E0745** Neuromuscular stim for shock; code reassignment due to “applicable fee schedule.”
- E1399 Is an Unlisted Durable Medical Equipment Code. The code reflected in the documentation represents an H-wave muscle stimulator unit which differs from the E0745 Neuromuscular stim for shock, assigned by the Claims Administrator.
- **CCR § 9789.60.** Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, Supplies. (a) For services, equipment, or goods provided after January 1, 2004, the maximum reasonable reimbursement for durable medical equipment, supplies and materials, orthotics, prosthetics, and miscellaneous supplies and services shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) percent of the rate set forth in the CMS' Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics/Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Fee Schedule, as established by Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395m) and applicable to California.

- OMFS allows for comparable code reimbursement provided consideration is be given to the value assigned to a comparable procedure or analogous code. The comparable procedure or analogous code should reflect similar amount of resources, such as practice expense, time, complexity, expertise, etc.H-wave stimulation is a form of electrical stimulation that differs from other forms of electrical stimulation, such as transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), in terms of its waveform (MTUS – Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines).
- H-wave: The main advantage of these technologies over currently applied electrical stimulators (eg, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator [TENS], interferential [IF], neuromuscular electrical stimulation [NMES], high-volt galvanic, etc.) is that H-Wave\'s(R) small fiber contraction does not trigger an activation of the motor nerves of the large white muscle fibers or the sensory delta and C pain nerve fibers, thus eliminating the negative and painful effects of tetanizing fatigue, which reduces transcapillary fluid shifts. Another function of the H-Wave(R) device is an anesthetic effect on pain conditions, unlike a TENS unit which in the short term activates a hypersensory overload effect (gate theory) to stop pain signals from reaching the thalamic region of the brain.(PubMed - 20048478)
- A DMEPOS or HCPCS code has yet to be assigned for H-Wave devices and a there is no comparable service code. As such, the Provider may be reimbursed a percentage of the billed Usual and Customary Charge under the OMFS or an existing Contractual Agreement.
- Provider’s Usual and Customary fee indicated on CMS 1500 and Invoice to Injured Worker is \$3,300.00.
- Invoice Reflects \$3,300.00 delivered to Injured Worker’s Home Address.
- **The Provider is the Manufacture** of the Unit; Contractual Agreement “Exhibit 2.B,” reflects “lesser of language, resulting in“75%” Usual and Customary.
- **Based on the documentation and guidelines, additional reimbursement is warranted for E1399-LL.**

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUE IN DISPUTE: E1399-LL

Date of Service 07/20/2015							
DMEPOS							
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Assist Surgeon	Units	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
E1399-LL	\$3,300.00	\$1,051.49	\$2,248.51	N/A	1	\$2,805.00	PPO Contract – Reimbursed Amount = \$1,753.51 Due Provider

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