
INDEPENDENT BILLING REVIEW FINAL DETERMINATION

November 24, 2015

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IBR Case Number:	CB15-0001984	Date of Injury:	07/10/2014
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]	Application Received:	10/26/2015
Claims Administrator:	[REDACTED]		
Date(s) of service:	05/21/2015		
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: 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 seeking remuneration of 99214-24 on date of service 5/21/2015.
- Claims Administrator denied code with rationale “The provider billed for a visit on the same day of surgery or within the follow up of a previously performed surgery”
- Provider billed visit with modifier -24: unrelated evaluation and management service by the same or another provider during postoperative period. Modifier -24 is used when the E/M encounter is not related during the global period.
- Report submitted documents “the patient is about 2 weeks staged flexor tendon repair on the right small finger. Today the patient noticed that the skin was opening at the distal part of the incision”
- Documentation submitted does not describe an unrelated E/M visit during the postoperative period.
- Provider billed ICD9 code 998.32: Disruption of external operation wound.
- E/M visit is directly related to the operative procedure and therefore, does not warrant reimbursement.

The table below describes the pertinent claim line information.

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

Date of Service: 05/21/2015						
Physician Service						
Service Code	Provider Billed	Plan Allowed	Dispute Amount	Units	Workers' Comp Allowed Amt.	Notes
99214	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$180.00	1	\$0.00	Refer to Analysis

Copy to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Copy to:

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]