

# PROVEN RESULTS



## Straightening Out the Spinal Bill: Trimming a \$235,312 Workers' Comp Bill with Classification, Edits, and Audit

### SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

WellRithms conducted its bill review for fee schedule states on a \$235,312 bill that was initially reduced to an allowed \$156,314. WellRithms then reduced that further, to \$99,206, saving another \$57,108.

Allowed Amount

**\$156,314**

WellRithms Reductions

**\$57,108**

Final Payment

**\$99,206**

Without WellRithms

~~**\$156,314**~~

With WellRithms

**\$99,206**

### BACKGROUND

This spine surgery case followed a severe motor vehicle accident in Nebraska, which has a fee schedule for workers' compensation. The initial charges of \$253,312 highlighted the common overbilling practice of incorrectly charging for implants and surgical supplies. Moreover, the plan would have paid the allowed charges of \$156,314 instead of the correct amount of \$99,206.

### RESULTS

Applying WellRithms Classification, Edits, and Audit System, WellRithms embarked on a detailed examination of the bill. As Ira Weintraub, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, noted, "Our process is not just about reducing numbers; it's about bringing integrity and fairness to a system often clouded by complex billing practices. Even having a fee schedule doesn't always protect you from coding mistakes."

### BILL REDUCTIONS INCLUDED

- **Implants:** Charges for implants were meticulously evaluated. Initially billed at \$23,063, with an allowed amount of \$18,077, WellRithms lowered that to \$15,321 after confirming the actual value and necessity of the implants used during surgery.
- **Surgical Supplies:** A common area of overbilling, the surgical supplies were billed at \$7,000 and accepted at \$4,750. Upon review, WellRithms determined these to be included within the surgical package, leading to an adjustment of the charges to zero.
- **Operative Suite:** The initial billing for the operative suite was \$100,000, with an allowed charge of \$53,730. After a detailed inspection, the charge was rightfully reduced to \$26,000, reflecting a more accurate use of resources.
- **Anesthesia:** Highlighting a pattern of overbilling, anesthesia charges were initially billed at \$16,000 and allowed at \$10,700. These services were already included in the surgical suite costs, which warranted reducing the anesthesia charge to zero.

WellRithms' comprehensive approach reduced the bill by \$57,108, reflecting the company's ability to add significant value even when a state fee schedule sets rates.

