

# PROVEN RESULTS



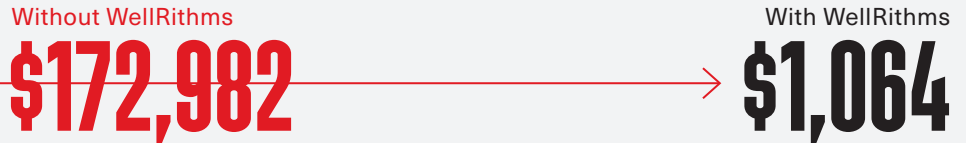
## Dissecting the Disguised Primary Procedure with WellRithms Sustainable Claim Pricing

### SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

In an out-of-network review and repricing of assistant surgeon charges WellRithms unmasked the hidden main procedure.

Assistant Surgeon bill of \$172,982 was reduced to \$1,064, representing 99% savings.

Billed Charges	\$172,982
WellRithms Reductions	\$171,918
Final Payment	\$1,064



### BACKGROUND

This California group health case of a laparoscopic procedure shows the misrepresentation of a bundled secondary procedure as the primary procedure—a strategic move likely due to the actual primary procedure, a gastric sleeve, including the secondary procedure. By understanding how the overall procedure was billed, the WellRithms Sustainable Claim Pricing (SCP) System successfully reduced the assistant surgeon charge by \$171,918, highlighting the importance of accurate procedure prioritization in medical billing.

### RESULTS

A surgeon faced scrutiny when the charge for a paraoesophageal hernia repair, commonly bundled as part of a gastric restrictive procedure, was incorrectly billed as the primary service. The surgeon's billing decision reflected knowing that insurance is less likely to cover procedures aimed at weight loss, thus prompting the misleading billing strategy.

Ira Weintraub, M.D., WellRithms Chief Medical Officer, noted, "The challenge in this case was discerning the surgeon's rationale for prioritizing procedures. Our Sustainable Claim Pricing System combined with a physician's review was

instrumental in uncovering the true intent behind the surgical codes, which led to a significant change in what the assistant could reasonably bill."

The resolution of this billing discrepancy was multifaceted:

- A physician review flagged that the gastric sleeve, not the hernia repair, was the primary procedure intended for the patient's treatment.
- The SCP system repriced the gastric sleeve as the primary procedure, repriced the hernia repair as included, and also repriced an unlisted billing code for a liver procedure to 5% of charges, in line with usual and customary fees.
- As a result of properly repricing the whole procedure, the assistant surgeon charges were reduced to reflect 20% of the surgeon's fees.

This experienced medical review corrected the billing and shed light on the nuances of coding strategies in complex medical cases. Cases such as this affirm the need for expert systems and experienced physicians to work in tandem, ensuring that patients and payers are charged fairly and accurately. Through diligent analysis and a commitment to transparency, WellRithms continues to advocate for integrity and accountability in every charge.

