

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/20/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/16/2013
Date of Injury:	5/9/2013
IMR Application Received:	8/2/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0006234

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **MRI lumbar spine is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/2/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/16/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 8/27/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **MRI lumbar spine** is not **medically necessary and appropriate**.

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

DOI – 5/9/2013

The patient is a 45-year-old male who sustained injury on May 9, 2013. The patient was diagnosed with lumbar sprain and lumbago. On 7/1/2013 the patient reported pain with flexion and extension of the spine and lateral bending. There was tender touch to palpation (TTP) over L3-5, there was degenerate disc disease (DDD) multi level, and there was a negative neurological history. there were no red flags noted. On the report there was no mention of any other conservative treatment options utilized. There is a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) request for after the MRI.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for MRI lumbar spine:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision:

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Official Disability Guidelines, (ODG), Chapter on Low Back,-Lumbar & Thoracic, MRIs, which is not part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Low Back Complaints (ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004), Chapter 12), Special Studies and Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations, page 303, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The employee does not meet the criteria for an imaging study as there is no evidence for neurologic compromise and the employee has not undergone appropriate conservative care. The medical records do not indicate that the employee has met the criteria for imaging at this stage of treatment, and there is no indication for surgery. **The request for MRI lumbar spine is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/pas

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.