

Case Number:	CM13-0000581		
Date Assigned:	09/12/2013	Date of Injury:	02/04/2013
Decision Date:	01/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/06/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Surgery 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 physician 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. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

65 year old woman with PMH of CAD, S/P CABG who was struck on the head and left side by a falling rack. Evaluated at [REDACTED] at which time she was hypertensive (185/67) and had complaints of L arm pain as well as nonspecific ST T wave changes on her EKG. CT of the head negative. Medications included Coreg/ ASA/ Lipitor/ and Lasix. Observed overnight. Serial troponins negative, BP normalized. Plan wishes to deny observation, feeling she was stable for discharge.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

Hospital Stay/Head Injury: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The ACOEM Practice Guidelines (Web Version).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The American College of Surgeons, ATLS.

Decision rationale: This patient had medical comorbidities, and object abnormal studies (hypertension, EKG changes) that supported admission and observation. Isolated head trauma in

a healthy patient with a negative CT could have been discharged and followed up. It is the patient's overall health that must be taken into account.