

Case Number:	CM13-0013820		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	09/07/2010
Decision Date:	03/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/15/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/19/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Psychology 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 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:

The claimant is a 35 year-old female with a date of injury of 9/7/10. The claimant sustained injury to her psyche when she was robbed at gunpoint while working for [REDACTED]. In his most recent PR-2 report dated 5/14/13 that is offered for review, [REDACTED] diagnosed the claimant with the following: (1) Acute anxiety; (2) Acute depression status post assault; and (3) Sleep disorder. There is also mention of Post-traumatic stress disorder in previous PR-2 reports.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Twelve (12) psychotherapy sessions between 8/8/2013 and 9/22/2013: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Mental Illness and Stress, Online Version, and the ODG Psychotherapy Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness and Stress Chapter.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS does not address the treatment of PTSD therefore; the Official Disability Guidelines regarding the behavioral treatment of PTSD will be used as reference for this case. Based on a review of the limited records offered for review, the claimant

has received some psychotherapy sessions; however the exact total is not known. She was authorized to receive an additional 12 sessions beginning 4/11/13, yet the last psychotherapy progress note from [REDACTED] that is offered for review is dated 3/11/13. Without having recent information regarding whether the claimant received further services and whether she obtained any objective functional improvement or gains from those services, the need for further services cannot be determined. As a result, the request for "Twelve (12) psychotherapy sessions between 8/8/2013 and 9/22/2013" is not medically necessary.