

Case Number:	CM13-0020755		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	08/08/2011
Decision Date:	01/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/21/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/05/2013

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 Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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:

The patient is a 63 year old male who has suffered from neck and lower back pain after multiple injuries between 1989 and 2011. A urinalysis for drug screen was performed 7/12/13. A utilization review 8/20/13 denied coverage for this test.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

The urine drug screen performed on 7/12/13: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 1 Prevention Page(s): 5, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 94.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS guidelines, screening urine toxicology is done for a variety of reasons. These include provider suspicion of substance abuse, to identify aberrant opioid use and to check for adherence to a prescribed program. There is no documentation as to why this test was ordered in the records provided. The request for a urine drug screen is not medically necessary and appropriate.