

Case Number:	CM13-0020813		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	03/28/2003
Decision Date:	02/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/06/2013

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 Internal Medicine and Cardiology, has a subspecialty in Cardiovascular Disease and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 reported an injury on 03/28/2003. The patient is currently diagnosed with right shoulder pain, mixed hyperlipidemia, and benign hypertensive heart disease without heart failure. The patient was seen by [REDACTED] on 07/18/2013. The patient's EKG resulted in a normal sinus rhythm with a heart rate between 55 and 95. Physical examination was not provided. Treatment recommendations included continuation of current medications and an echo SPECT TM.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

The request for Nuclear TM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Heart 2003 January: 89(1): 113-118; PMCID: PMC1767520 Stress echocardiography Thomas H. Marwick.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Professor Thomas H Marwick, Heart. 2003 January; 89(1): 113-118. Stress echocardiography.

Decision rationale: Stress echocardiography is a powerful prognostic tool in coronary artery disease, after myocardial infarction, and in evaluation of patients before major non-cardiac surgery. As per the clinical notes submitted, the patient has previously undergone a stress test in 2003. The patient has also undergone multiple cardiac studies that have been essentially stable. There is no documentation upon cardiac examination or within the medical records reviewed as to why or how another comprehensive cardiac assessment would be necessary at this time. As such, the current request cannot be determined as medically appropriate. Therefore, the request is non-certified.

The request for Echocardiogram: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Heart 2003 January: 89(1): 113-118; PMID: PMC1767520 Stress echocardiography Thomas H. Marwick

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Rao, Gowtham, et al. "Appropriate use of transthoracic echocardiography." The American journal of cardiology 105.11 (2010): 1640-1642.

Decision rationale: Symptoms of potential cardiac origin is the most common reason for a transthoracic echocardiographic study. As per the clinical notes submitted, the patient has undergone an echocardiogram in 2003, 2009, and 2010. The patient has undergone multiple cardiac studies that have been essentially stable. There is no documentation upon cardiac examination or within the medical records as to why or how another comprehensive cardiac assessment would be necessary. An echocardiogram is not routinely utilized. As such, the request would not be considered medically appropriate. Therefore, the request is non-certified.