

Case Number:	CM13-0022006		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2013	Date of Injury:	05/28/2008
Decision Date:	01/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/30/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/09/2013

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 Pain Management, has a subspecialty in Disability Evaluation 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.

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 31 year old old-female with employment related injury to the in right. Knee on 05/28/2008. Records indicated that the claimant underwent surgical intervention in the form of ACL repair and medial meniscus repair several months following her right knee injury. Despite nutritional counseling and other weight loss programs, the claimant has stayed at a very high weight (317 pounds) with a morbidly obese BMI. Despite nutritional counseling and other weight loss programs, she has been on multiple dietary regimens without success. She complains of pain in back and knees as well as heartburn. Previous requests for bariatric surgery had been denied for a variety of reasons. Present request is for pre-surgery psychiatric evaluation and Internal medicine Consultation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Internal Medicine evaluation: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: 1) UCSF Weight Loss Program. 2) Center for disease control and prevention.

Decision rationale: CA-MTUS (Effective July 18 2009) is mute about this topic. According to UCSF WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM, there are countless weight-loss strategies available but many are ineffective and short-term, particularly for those who are morbidly obese. Among the morbidly obese, less than 5 percent succeed in losing a significant amount of weight and maintaining the weight loss with non-surgical programs -- usually a combination of dieting, behavior modification therapy and exercise. People do lose weight without surgery, however, particularly when they work with a certified health care professional to develop an effective and safe weight-loss program. Most health insurance companies don't cover weight-loss surgery unless you first make a serious effort to lose weight using non-surgical approaches. According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are a variety of factors that play a role in obesity. This makes it a complex health issue to address. Behavior, environment, and genetic factors may have an effect in causing people to be overweight and obese. Some illnesses may lead to obesity or weight gain. These may include Cushing's disease, and polycystic ovary syndrome. Drugs such as steroids and some antidepressants may also cause weight gain. Therefore, Internal medicine evaluation is necessary to evaluate for any genetic or environmental etiology of the patients obesity.