

Case Number:	CM13-0022167		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2013	Date of Injury:	06/22/2009
Decision Date:	07/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/06/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/09/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

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

According to the records made available for review, this is a 50-year-old female with a 6/22/09 date of injury. At the time (9/6/13) of request for authorization for IH consultation to access whether carbon monoxide poisoning was plausible during the day in question with [REDACTED], there is documentation of subjective (difficulty with concentration, depression, shortness of breath, dry throat, headaches, and sleep problems) findings, current diagnoses (probable solvent and or carbon monoxide exposure, prior history of seasonal allergies, pulmonary function test diagnosed reactive airways disease, history of depression exacerbated, and sleep apnea), and treatment to date (medications and activity modification). 8/27/13 medical report identifies a request for an IH consultation for the location so that assessment can be done to consider whether carbon monoxide poisoning was even plausible during the day in question.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

IH CONSULTATION TO ACCESS WHETHER CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING WAS PLAUSIBLE DURING THE DAY IN QUESTION WITH [REDACTED]:
Upheld

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

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: <http://www.cigna.com/healthcare-professionals/resources-for-health-care-professionals/clinical-payment-and-reimbursement-policies/medical-necessity-definitions>.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not address this issue. MTUS Guidelines identifies documentation that the request represents medical treatment in order to be reviewed for medical necessity. A search of online resources failed to provide any articles/studies addressing criteria for the medical necessity for the requested IH consultation to access whether carbon monoxide poisoning was plausible during the day in question. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of probable solvent and or carbon monoxide exposure, prior history of seasonal allergies; pulmonary function test diagnosed reactive airways disease, history of depression exacerbated, and sleep apnea. In addition, there is documentation of a request for an IH consultation for the location so that assessment can be done to consider whether carbon monoxide poisoning was even plausible during the day in question. However, there is no documentation that the request represents medical treatment. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for IH consultation to access whether carbon monoxide poisoning was plausible during the day in question with [REDACTED] is not medically necessary.