

Case Number:	CM13-0028359		
Date Assigned:	11/27/2013	Date of Injury:	10/20/1999
Decision Date:	01/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/19/2013

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, Pulmonary Diseases, 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. 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 53-year-old male who reported an injury on 10/20/1999. He is reported to suffer from constipation due to the medications he is taking for his chronic pain and is noted to complain of diffuse abdominal pain and bright red blood after bowel movements. He admits to straining during bowel movements and notes blood on the toilet paper following his bowel movements but denied any dark stools and denied any blood in the toilet bowl following bowel movements. A digital rectal examination performed noted external hemorrhoids. The patient was reported to have been given educational material for diet and ways to improve his constipation and was given a lab slip for an H. pylori stool Ag testing, and a Hemocult x3.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

screening colonoscopy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Davis-Christopher Textbook of Surgery, 12th Ed., David C Sabiston Jr., W.B. Saunders.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The Merck Manual for Healthcare Professionals, Gastrointestinal Disorders, Overview of GI Bleeding.

Decision rationale: The patient is a 53-year-old male who reported an injury on 10/20/1999. He is reported to suffer from constipation due to the medications he is taking for his chronic pain and is noted to complain of diffuse abdominal pain and bright red blood after bowel movements. He is reported to have been referred for a screening colonoscopy. The patient is noted to have been given a lab slip for H. pylori stool Ag testing, and Hemoccult x3. He admits to straining during bowel movements and notes blood on the toilet paper following his bowel movements but denied any dark stools and denied any blood in the toilet bowl following bowel movements. A digital rectal examination performed noted external hemorrhoids. The California MTUS/ACOEM and ODG do not address colonoscopy. A Merck Manual for Healthcare Professionals recommends chemical testing of a stool sample for occult bleeding. If no gross blood is present along with CBC, coagulation profile, and often other studies and recommends an NGT for all but those with minimal rectal bleeding. As the patient is not noted to have profuse bleeding and the results of the hemoccult and H. pylori testing were not reported, the request for a colonoscopy does not meet guideline recommendations.