

Case Number:	CM13-0028569		
Date Assigned:	11/27/2013	Date of Injury:	12/14/2011
Decision Date:	12/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2013

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 Physical Rehabilitation & Pain Management has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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:

The patient is a 50 year old male with an injury date of 12/14/11. Based on the 08/07/13 progress report provided by treating physician, the patient complains of constant right hip pain rated 8/10. Physical examination of the right hip revealed tenderness to palpation to the right hip with painful range of motion. Patient is not working and reports that taking medications does not help. Patient's medications include Anaprox and Prilosec. The 12 physical therapy notes dated 04/22/13 - 05/09/13 were provided. Treating physician report dated 07/30/13 states patient has had steroid injections, which have provided 5 days relief at the most (his most recent injection September 2012). Per progress report dated 07/30/13, treating physician states "I do think he is a candidate, despite his young age, to proceed with arthroplasty... We will arrange for medical clearance prior to surgery." Treating physician report dated 07/30/13 states the patient is receiving consultation for possible total hip replacement. Diagnosis 08/07/13; right hip degenerative joint disease no improvement; status post injection, provided 2 weeks relief; left ankle achilles tenosynovitis, no improvement; left feet plantar fasciitis, no change. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 09/05/13. Treatment reports were provided from 04/03/13 - 08/07/13.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Inpatient Stay 4-7 days: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Hip & Pelvis Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Hip & Pelvis Chapter, Hospital length of stay (LOS).

Decision rationale: The patient presents with right hip pain rated 8/10. The request is for Inpatient Stay 4-7 days. The treating physician report dated 07/30/13 states patient has had steroid injections, which have provided 5 days relief at the most (his most recent injection September 2012). Patient's diagnosis dated 08/07/13 included right hip degenerative joint disease, no improvement. Per progress report dated 07/30/13, treating physician states "I do think he is a candidate, despite his young age, to proceed with arthroplasty. We will arrange for medical clearance prior to surgery." ODG-TWC, Hip & Pelvis (Acute & Chronic) Chapter states: "Hospital length of stay (LOS), ODG hospital length of stay (LOS) guidelines: Total Hip (icd 81.51 - Total hip replacement) Actual data -- median 3 days; mean 3.6 days (0.0); discharges 276,528; charges (mean) \$48,407. Best practice target (no complications) -- 3 days." Treating physician report dated 07/30/13 states the patient is receiving consultation for possible total hip replacement. Regarding the request for hospital stay length of stay, ODG states 3 days are indicated for the patient's procedure. The request for 4-7 days exceeds allowed amount based on ODG data. More importantly, there is no indication that the patient will be going through with hip replacement surgery. The patient is pending pre-operative evaluation. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.