

Case Number:	CM13-0031693		
Date Assigned:	12/04/2013	Date of Injury:	12/18/2010
Decision Date:	08/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/25/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/04/2013

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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 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 injured worker is a 36-year-old female who reported an injury on 12/18/2010. The mechanism of injury was not stated. Current diagnoses include bilateral wrist tendinitis with possible early carpal tunnel syndrome on the left, status post left long finger trigger release and lumbar spine sprain and strain. The injured worker was evaluated on 08/19/2013 with complaints of constant lower back pain with radiation into the bilateral lower extremities. Physical examination revealed tenderness to palpation, decreased range of motion, decreased strength and sensory deficit. Treatment recommendations at that time included electromyography and nerve conduction studies.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

NERVE CONDUCTION VELOCITY(NCV) STUDY OF THE BILATERAL UPPER EXTREMITIES: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 271-273.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 268-269.

Decision rationale: California MTUS/ACOEM Practice Guidelines state special studies are not needed until after a 4 to 6 week period of conservative care and observation. In cases of peripheral nerve impingement, if there is no improvement or a worsening of symptoms, electrical studies may be indicated. As per the documentation submitted, the injured worker was pending authorization for electromyography and nerve conduction studies. However, there was no documentation of a physical examination of the bilateral upper extremities. The injured worker reported low back pain with numbness and tingling in the lower extremities. The medical necessity for the requested electrodiagnostic study has not been established. Therefore, the request is non-certified.

ELECTROMYOGRAPHY (EMG) OF THE BILATERAL UPPER EXTREMITIES:

Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 271-273.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 268-269.

Decision rationale: California MTUS/ACOEM Practice Guidelines state special studies are not needed until after a 4 to 6 week period of conservative care and observation. In cases of peripheral nerve impingement, if there is no improvement or a worsening of symptoms, electrical studies may be indicated. As per the documentation submitted, the injured worker was pending authorization for electromyography and nerve conduction studies. However, there was no documentation of a physical examination of the bilateral upper extremities. The injured worker reported low back pain with numbness and tingling in the lower extremities. The medical necessity for the requested electrodiagnostic study has not been established. Therefore, the request is non-certified.