

Case Number:	CM13-0032705		
Date Assigned:	12/11/2013	Date of Injury:	02/05/2013
Decision Date:	09/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/08/2013

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 Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 49-year-old male who was reportedly injured on February 5, 2013. The mechanism of injury was being hit on the head by a piece of plywood. The most recent progress note dated March 10, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of head, neck and back pains. The physical examination demonstrated decreased cervical spine range of motion and decreased sensation on the right at the C5-C6 dermatomes. There was also mild weakness of the right triceps muscle. Diagnostic computed tomography imaging of the head revealed no suspicious acute brain parenchymal abnormality. Previous treatment included chiropractic care. A request was made for a magnetic resonance image of the brain and C-spine and was denied in the pre-authorization process on 27 September 2013.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI BRAIN: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines-Treatment for Workers' Compensation (TWC), Head Procedure Summary.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental

Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) - Cervical and Thoracic Spine Disorders - Diagnostic Investigations - MRI (electronically cited).

Decision rationale: According to the progress note, dated March 10, 2014, the computed tomography of the head was a normal study and it was then recommended that a cervical magnetic resonance image (MRI) be performed. Considering this, it is unclear why there is a request for an MRI of the brain. Without additional justification, this request for an MRI of the brain is not medically necessary.

MRI C-SPINE: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines- Treatment for Workers' Compensation (TWC), Neck & Upper Back.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) - Cervical and Thoracic Spine Disorders - Diagnostic Investigations - MRI (electronically cited).

Decision rationale: According to the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine a magnetic resonance image (MRI) of the cervical spine is indicated for individuals with cervical spine pain and a progressive neurological deficit. The progress note dated March 10, 2014, indicates that there were abnormal neurological findings on physical examination to include decreased sensation at the right C5 and C6 dermatomes. Considering these findings and the mechanism of injury, this request for an MRI the cervical spine is medically necessary.