

Case Number:	CM13-0034886		
Date Assigned:	12/11/2013	Date of Injury:	02/24/2012
Decision Date:	02/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/10/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/15/2013

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 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 37-year-old male who reported an injury on 11/08/2011. The patient was noted to be chasing a suspect on his motorcycle when he struck a car going approximately 40 miles per hour. The patient was noted to have 2 surgeries on his right ankle. There was lack of documentation of the patient's back injury. The diagnosis was not provided. Request was made for a lumbar discogram.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

lumbar discogram: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Low Back Chapter, Discogram.

Decision rationale: Official Disability Guidelines do not recommend discography. In the past, discography has been used as part of a preoperative evaluation of patients for consideration of surgical intervention for low back pain. There is lack of documentation indicating the necessity for the test. There is lack of documentation of the patient's back injury. The injuries were noted

to be the ankles and to the wrists. Given the above and the lack of documentation and the lack of objective examination findings regarding the back, the request for a lumbar discogram is not medically necessary.