

Case Number:	CM13-0053424		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	01/27/1995
Decision Date:	10/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/11/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2013

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 Internal Medicine 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 61 year old male who was injured on 01/27/1995 when he slipped on a wet floor. Prior medication history included ibuprofen, Trazodone, Vytorin, aspirin, and Atenolol. Progress report dated 01/07/2014 states the patient presented with severe daily headaches and pain in both hips and both shoulders. The patient has a diagnosis of bilateral TMJ syndrome and tinnitus related to long-term dose aspirin ingestion and/or age-related changes. The patient was recommended for an ENT consultation, neurology consultation and a follow-up evaluation by [REDACTED]. Prior utilization review dated 11/11/2013 states the request for Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) consultation is denied as there is no indication for the request.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) consultation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 92.

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), Chapter 7 - Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, pages 503.

Decision rationale: The guidelines, in general, recommend referral to specialist when deemed medically necessary by the referring physician. There should be documentation with subjective/objective findings to support the referral request. The clinical documents state the patient has suffered from chronic TMJ and chronic tinnitus. There was no discussion of new or worsening symptoms related to the above conditions. The clinical notes lacked a clear indication and justification for ENT consultation. Based on the guidelines and criteria as well as the clinical documentation stated above, the request is not medically necessary.