

Case Number:	CM13-0054462		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	10/15/2010
Decision Date:	03/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/19/2013

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 49-year-old injured worker who reported injury on 10/28/2010. The mechanism of injury was noted to be the patient was lifting a box of shredded paper. Most recent documentation indicated the patient had the objective findings upon physical examination of tenderness to palpation at L3-4, L4-5, and SI joints bilaterally. The patient had a negative Faber maneuver bilaterally, a negative Gaenslen's on the right, and a positive Patrick's test on the right. The patient had a positive compression test to the right SI joint. The patient had a positive straight leg raise on the right at 40 degrees with radiculopathy down the right leg. Impression was noted to be SI joint pain and sacral radiculopathy. The request was made for SI joint injections under fluoroscopy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SI joint injections under fluoroscopy: 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)

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, SI joint injection.

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines indicate that the criteria for the use of sacroiliac joint blocks include a history and physical should suggest the diagnosis with documentation of at least 3 positive examination findings above, the Gaenslen's test, the Patrick's test (Faber), pelvic compression test, pelvic distraction test, and pelvic rock test. There should be documentation that the patient has failed at least 4 to 6 weeks of aggressive conservative therapy including physical therapy, home exercise and medication management and blocks are performed under fluoroscopy and diagnostic evaluation must first address any other possible pain generators. Based on the medical records provided for review the patient had a negative Faber maneuver bilaterally, a negative Gaenslen's on the right, and a positive Patrick's test on the right. The patient had a positive compression test to the right SI joint; positive straight leg raise on the right at 40 degrees with radiculopathy down the right leg. Clinical documentation submitted for review failed to indicate the patient had 3 positive examination findings, that other possible pain generators had been addressed, and that the patient had failed at least 4 to 6 weeks of aggressive conservative therapy including physical therapy, home exercise and medication management. Additionally, the request as submitted failed to indicate the quantity of injections being requested. The request for SI joint injections under fluoroscopy is not medically necessary and appropriate.