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| Case Number: | CM13-0056859 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 12/30/2013 | Date of Injury: | 10/02/2013 |
| Decision Date: | 03/20/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 11/20/2013 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 11/24/2013 |

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Licensed in Psychology 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 claimant is a 55 year-old female [REDACTED] with a date of injury of 10/2/13. She sustained injury to her chest/ribs and psyche due to stress related to her job duties as a senior psychiatric technician with [REDACTED]. In his 11/4/13 "Initial Psychological Consultation" report, [REDACTED] diagnosed the claimant with Adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood, severe and suggested a rule out of Posttraumatic stress disorder. The claimant has not received any prior psychological or psychiatric services regarding this claim.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychological status report: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 105-127.
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) Mental Illness and Stress Chapter.

Decision rationale: There are no guidelines regarding psychological status reports as progress notes and reports are typically included in the usual and customary psychological services

performed. The only caveat to this involves psychological evaluations/testing reports, which are considered separate entities and can be authorized as a separate service. As a result, the Official Disability Guidelines regarding the use of cognitive behavioral interventions will be used as reference in this case. The ODG makes reference to the fact that for further treatment, "evidence of objective functional improvement" needs to be demonstrated. Typically, this demonstration is written into progress notes, reports, or an RFA. Given that the status reports and progress notes are to be included in the behavioral services provided, the request for a "psychological status report" is not medically necessary.