

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0058944		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/30/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/02/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/25/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/27/2013

### 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 Occupational 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:

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### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Lumbar discogram with CT:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 304-305.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints  
Page(s): 304-305.

**Decision rationale:** Pages 304-305 from the California MTUS ACOEM Low Back Chapter states that discography has a limited diagnostic value and can produce significant symptoms in patients with no back problems. In this case, there is no discussion or rationale concerning the need for a discogram despite adverse guidelines recommendations. There is no evidence that the patient meets surgical fusion criteria, that a psychological clearance was obtained, or that testing would be limited to a single level and a control level. Therefore, the request for lumbar discogram with CT is not medically necessary.