

Case Number:	CM13-0060776		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	03/30/2012
Decision Date:	07/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/07/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/04/2013

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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 27-year-old male the date of injury of March 30, 2012. He has chronic back pain. He's diagnosed with left L5-S1 herniated disc. He continues to have back pain radiating to his left leg. He had an epidural block injection in September 2012. On physical examination, the patient has reduced range of motion lumbar spine. His back is tender to palpation. Straight leg raising causes pain. Lumbar MRI shows 6 mm herniated L5-S1 disc compressing the left S1 nerve root. The patient has been indicated for left L5-S1 hemilaminectomy. At issue is whether preop medical clearance is medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PRE-OP MEDICAL CLEARANCE: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter.

Decision rationale: This patient does not meet establish criteria for preoperative medical clearance. Specifically, the patient is a healthy 27-year-old male with no significant past medical

history. Guidelines do not support the use of preoperative medical clearance when the patient is a healthy 27-year-old male undergoing simple lumbar laminectomy surgery. Preoperative medical clearance is not medically necessary.