

Case Number:	CM13-0061384		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	03/10/2011
Decision Date:	05/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/03/2013

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 Clinical Psychology has a subspecialty in Health Psychology and Pain Management 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:

According to the records provided for this independent medical review; this patient reported an industrial-occupational injury on March 10th 2011 when during the normal course of his work duties as a carpenter/supervisor he fell from the top of the ladder that was situated on top of a stairway. He suffered a detached retina and had 6 subsequent eye surgeries with continued visual problems. He has also had continued problems with his shoulder and is status post surgery in this area as well. Multiple areas of chronic pain and difficulty are noted including his head, neck shoulders, ribs, lower back and left arm. In addition to his medical symptoms, he also reports psychiatric symptoms of headache, trouble sleeping, arousal disorder, depression, anxiety, and balance, concentration, and relationship problems. He has been unable to work since the date of the accident. He is taking an antidepressant medication as well as Gabapentin, Norco and anti-inflammatory medications as well as sleep and muscle relaxants. A request for a neuropsychological evaluation with up to 6 follow-up visits was made and not certified this independent medical evaluation will focus on a request to overturn this decision.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATION AND UP TO SIX FOLLOW-UP VISITS:
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations/Psychological Treatment Page(s): 100.

Decision rationale: After a careful and comprehensive review of all of the medical records which were provided to me I have concluded that the decision to non-certified the request for a neuropsychological evaluation was in error, however the overall denial of treatment was correct. It does appear to me that this patient could potentially benefit from a comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation. With respect to psychological evaluations, the MTUS states that they are generally well accepted diagnostic procedures, and are appropriate under the MTUS chronic pain treatment guidelines. However, the issue here is the additional request attached to the evaluation request for up to 6 follow-up sessions. First, it is unclear if he has been provided any psychological treatments to date as there were no notes regarding this issue but a few mentions that it has been recommended. This would be important to be known either way before 6 follow-up sessions could be authorized. But even more so the additional six sessions may or may not be needed. Only after the evaluation is completed would the need for follow-up be clear. Therefore this entire request has to be denied because the IMR process is an all-or-none decision.