MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM13-0063801		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	07/07/2000
Decision Date:	04/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/14/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/10/2013

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 Internal 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 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:

This is a 57 year old male status post injury 7/7/00 when he experienced an onset of lumbar pain while maneuvering a 45-pound box onto a top shelf at work. The patient most recently (12/3/13) presented with lumbar spine pain with periodic right leg sensory loss, increases in pain with walking, problems getting in and out of cars and difficulties with dressing, crepitation with stair climbing and descending. Objective findings included guarding of the spine, thoracolumbar tenderness to deep compression, tender right and left paralumbar areas, straight leg raising positive on the right side at 80 degrees, hypesthesia present over the dorsal aspect of the right foot and lateral aspect of the right calf. Diagnoses include lumbago, reflux esophagitis, esophageal reflux, cough, and Barrett's esophagus. The treatments have included conservative modalities, medication, L5-S1 lumbar fusion surgery 2001, and L4-L5 ant-post fusion 2008. The disputed issue is one follow up office visit with [redacted] as an outpatient. Medical report 7/3/13 reports the patient's GERD is poorly controlled on medication and recommended Nissen Fundoplication. Medical report 11/15/13 states patient was evaluated by [redacted] for Nissen Fundoplication to prevent progression of Barrett's Esophagus and esophagitis to cancer.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Follow up office visit with [redacted]: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse website.

Decision rationale: Review of the records indicated that the patient had been diagnosed with a Barrett esophagus which is metaplasic transformation of the esophageal lining and it considered a premalignant lesion that can lead to cancer of the esophagus, then consult with [redacted] is appropriate and indicated to explore the possibility of surgery. The prior UR decision is reversed. The issue listed above is medically necessary.