

Case Number:	CM13-0063979		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	06/22/2009
Decision Date:	03/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/19/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/11/2013

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:

The patient is a 55 year old female who was injured on 06/22/2009 while at work for [REDACTED] trying to catch a fallen box. Her diagnoses per the records reviewed include depression, MRSA pneumonia, asthma, carpal tunnel syndrome, degenerative disk disease, right shoulder impingement, right shoulder AC arthritis, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, primary biliary cirrhosis, and chronic pain. Medications have included, but have not been limited to Ultram, Norco, Prednisone, Rituximab, Imuran, Methotrexate, Albuterol and Advair. In a note dated 10/05/2013, the patient was documented as being treated for rheumatoid arthritis with Rituximab infusion and prn prednisone. She was subsequently seen on 10/24/13, where a clinic note documents the patient having complaints of pain in the neck at 7 out of 10, constant, achy, and sharp. She also complained for right shoulder pain, 5 out of 10 with medication, and 7 out of 10 without medication. The objective findings on exam included the cervical spine flexion is 40/50 degrees, extension is 50/60 degrees, right rotation is 45/80 degrees, and left rotation is 65/80 degrees. The right shoulder is positive Neer's, positive 90 degrees cross over impingement test, positive Apley's, positive Hawkin's and weak abduction against resistance. The request is for authorization of arthritis labs.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lab test: arthritis panel: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Evidence-based guidelines for the use of immunologic tests: Antinuclear antibody testing. Arthritis Rheum and The Role of the Laboratory in the Evaluation of Rheumatic Diseases

Decision rationale: "Arthritis labs" is a very non-specific term. Labs that can be useful in patients with suspected or confirmed inflammatory arthritis can include inflammatory markers (ie. ESR/CRP), antinuclear antibodies (ie. ANA, RF, CCP, anti-DS DNA), complement levels or a combination of the aforementioned. These labs can be of clinical utility to diagnose and monitor patients with conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus. Unfortunately, the provider did not specify which specific "arthritis labs" they are interested in obtaining (i.e. ANA, RF, CCP, DS DNA, etc), nor did they document the rationale for obtaining the labs. While the records indicate that the patient has a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, is complaining of chronic neck and shoulder pain, and has undergone treatment in the past (Prednisone, Imuran, Methotrexate and Rituximab), the ordering physician does not specifically state which labs he or she is interested in obtaining and why. Thus, the request for "arthritis labs" is not certified.