MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM13-0064837		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	05/09/2009
Decision Date:	12/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/09/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/12/2013

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 Ortho Spine Surgeon 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:

Patient is a 59 yo male with date of injury of 5/9/2009.He has chronic low back pain.He had physical therapy (PT) and ESI that did not improve pain for an extended period of time.Physical exam shows decreased range of back motion. Tenderness to spine palpationThere is some weakness and sensory loss in calf region.There is a positive straight leg rise (SLR).MRI from 2013 shows hnp at L3-4 and post surgery changes with scar at L5-S1.There is some foraminal stenosis at L5-s1.The need for pre-op medical clearance for back surgery is in question.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 PREOPERATIVE MEDICAL CLEARANCE: 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 Updated guidelines on cardiovascular evaluation before noncardiac surgery: A view from the trenches. Cohn SL. Cleve Clin J Med. 2014 Dec;81(12):742-751. Review. MID:25452352[PubMed - as supplied by publisher] Free Article Related citations Hosp Pract (1995). 2011 Feb;39(1):41-51. doi: 10.3810/hp.2011.02.373. Medical consultation and best practices for preoperative evaluation of elderly patients. Stefan M1, Iglesia Lino L, Fernandez G. Anesthesiology. 2012 Ja

Decision rationale: The medical records do not indicate that the patient has multiple medical problems. The patient is scheduled to have lumbar spinal surgery. The medical records do not indicate that the patient is an increase medical risk for adverse cardio or pulmonary events. The medical records do not indicate that the patient has extensive medical comorbidities that would warrant preoperative evaluation. Preoperative medical evaluation does not medically necessary and not supported by documentation the current medical records. The patient is relatively healthy and is having routine lumbar surgery. Preoperative medical violation not medically necessary.