MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0002579		
Date Assigned:	01/29/2014	Date of Injury:	04/20/1999
Decision Date:	06/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/12/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/07/2014

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 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 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 has submitted a claim for low back pain associated with an industrial injury date of April 20, 1999. The treatment to date has included medications, physical therapy, psychotherapy, epidural injections, sacroiliac joint injections, and L4-5 discectomy. The medical records from 2013 were reviewed, which showed that the patient complained of constant low back pain radiating to the right lower extremity. She also reported upper back, hand, wrist, and upper abdominal pain. The past medical history revealed hypertension, diabetes, and bladder suspension. On physical examination, she was obese with a slightly elevated blood pressure. An examination of the skin, head/eyes/ears/nose/throat (HEENT), lungs, and abdomen were unremarkable. An examination of the neck showed limited range of motion. There was tenderness of the parathoracic, and paralumbar muscles. The lumbar spine range of motion was decreased. Straight leg raising signs were positive bilaterally. There was 1+ edema of the extremities. The patient walked with a shuffling gait. There were no sensorimotor deficits. Soft tissue examination revealed six (6) of the eighteen (18) classical tender points of fibromyalgia. Laboratory data dated September 9, 2013, showed normal sedimentation rate, negative C-reactive protein, normal complete blood count, hemoglobin A1C was consistent with diabetes representing adequate control, and normal serum electrolytes. The utilization review from December 12, 2013 denied the request for a complete metabolic panel (CMP)-lipid panel, complete blood count (CBC), C-reactive, Cardio C-reactive protein (CRP), hemoglobin A1c, iron total, magnesium, sedimentation rate because there was no specific justification of medical necessity given for the request for these lab studies.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LABS: CMP-LIPID PANEL, CBC, C-REACTIVE, CARDIO CRP, HEMOGLOBIN A1C, IRON TOTAL, MAGNESIUM, SED RATE: 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 COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL. MEDLINEPLUS. (HTTP://WWW.NLM.NIH.GOV/MEDLINEPLUS/ENCY/ARTICLE/003468.HTM).

Decision rationale: According to [redacted], a comprehensive metabolic panel is a group of blood tests. They provide an overall picture of the body's chemical balance and metabolism. In this case, laboratory data dated September 9, 2013, showed normal sedimentation rate, negative C-reactive protein, normal complete blood count, hemoglobin A1C was consistent with diabetes representing adequate control, and normal serum electrolytes. However, there was no discussion regarding the indication for these laboratory tests. Furthermore, since the requested laboratory studies were already performed as previously mentioned; then there is no clear indication for repeat laboratory tests. Therefore, the request for Labs: complete metabolic panel (CMP)-lipid panel, complete blood count (CBC), C-reactive, Cardio C-reactive protein (CRP), hemoglobin A1c, iron total, magnesium, sedimentation rate, is not medically necessary.