

Case Number:	CM14-0003451		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	05/24/2009
Decision Date:	06/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/09/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 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 is a 44-year-old male with a 5/24/09 date of injury, and status post L5-S1 fusion 8/12. At the time (12/27/13) of request for authorization for Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE), there is documentation of subjective low back pain. There are objective findings of decreased range of motion. Current diagnoses are status post motor vehicle accident with multiple body injuries, disc injury with cervical disc arthroplasty at C5-6 level, and cervical and lumbar spine sprain/strain injury, possible lumbar spine disc injury, possible lumbar radiculopathy, and status post back surgery fusion 8/24/11. Treatments to date include medications, injections, ESI, and physical therapy. 1/3/14 medical report identifies a request for a Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) to reassess the patient's residual capacity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY EVALUATION (FCE): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), FCE.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College Of Occupational And Environmental Medicine(ACOEM), Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, pages137-138. Non-MTUS: Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

Decision rationale: ACOEM guidelines identifies that functional capacity evaluations (FCE) may establish physical abilities and also facilitate the examinee/employer relationship for return to work. The Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) identifies documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (Close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a functional capacity evaluation. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of status post motor vehicle accident with multiple body injuries, disc injury with cervical disc arthroplasty at C5-6 level, and cervical and lumbar spine sprain/strain injury, possible lumbar spine disc injury, possible lumbar radiculopathy, and status post back surgery fusion 8/24/11. However, there is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); that timing is appropriate (Close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured) and that additional/secondary conditions have been clarified. Therefore, the request for a Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) is not medically necessary and appropriate.