MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0108936		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	07/07/2010
Decision Date:	10/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/14/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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 claimant is a 49 year old gentleman who injured his left lower extremity and left foot on 7/7/10. The Utilization Review of 7/8/14 authorized left foot, TMT arthrodesis with distal tibial bone grafting. There were clinical requests in direct relationship to the surgical process for laboratory bloodwork, preoperative PCP and cardiac clearance. The clinical records provided for review did not reveal any evidence of underlying comorbidities, significant past medical history or current medication usage for this claimant. This review is for the perioperative requests.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-operative clearance with PCP: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Surgery General Information and Ground Rules, California Official Medical Fee Schedule, 1999 edtion, pages 92-93.

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), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127

Decision rationale: Based on the California ACOEM Guidelines, the request for preoperative clearance appointment with claimant's PCP would not be indicated. As stated in the response to question number one, the medical records do not document any cardiac risk factor in direct relationship to the planned surgery to support the request for preoperative clearance appointment with PCP prior to surgical intervention. This specific request in this case would not be supported as medically necessary.

Request for 1 referral for cardiac clearance: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Surgery General Information and Ground Rules, California Official Medical Fee Schedule, 1999 edtion, pages 92-93.

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), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127

Decision rationale: Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, referral for cardiac clearance would not be indicated as medically necessary. The medical records do not document any cardiac risk factor in direct relationship to the planned surgery to support the request for cardiac assessment or work up prior to surgical intervention. Therefore, the request for 1 referral for cardiac clearance is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Request for 1 pre-operative appointment with PCP.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Surgery General Information and Ground Rules, California Official Medical Fee Schedule, 1999 edtion, pages 92-93.

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), 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127

Decision rationale: Based on the California ACOEM Guidelines, the request for preoperative clearance appointment with claimant's PCP would not be indicated. As stated in the response to question number one, the medical records do not document any cardiac risk factor in direct relationship to the planned surgery to support the request for preoperative clearance appointment with PCP prior to surgical intervention. Therefore, the request for 1 pre-operative appointment with PCP is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Request for 1 pre-operative cardiac clearance: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Surgery General Information and Ground Rules, California Official Medical Fee Schedule, 1999 edtion, pages 92-93.

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), 2nd Edition, (2004); Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

Decision rationale: Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, referral for cardiac clearance would not be indicated as medically necessary. The medical records do not document any cardiac risk factor in direct relationship to the planned surgery to support the request for cardiac assessment or work up prior to surgical intervention. Therefore, the request for 1 pre-operative cardiac clearance is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Request for 1 pre-operative labs: CBC, and CMET: Upheld

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

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), 2nd Edition, (2004); Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127. Citation(s): Harris J, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004) - pp. 127 Hegmann K, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Ed (2008 Revision) - pp. 503

Decision rationale: California ACOEM Guidelines would not support the request for preoperative laboratory testing. At present there is no direct clinical indication for laboratory testing in this individual. There is no indication of past medical history, underlying comorbidities, or documentation of a diagnosis that would support this need for laboratory testing. Therefore, the request for 1 pre-operative labs: CBC, and CMET is not medically necessary and appropriate.