

Case Number:	CM14-0109101		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	07/01/2007
Decision Date:	09/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/13/2014
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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 51 year-old female with a 7/1/2007 date of injury. According to the 5/1/14 plastic surgery consultation, the patient has history of lumbar spine instrumentation via low midline abdominal approach and presents with abdominal scar pain and deformity. Exam shows small infraumbilical midline vertical incision, healed but with dysesthesias, adjacent contour abnormality without obvious incisional hernia. The treatment plan was for abdominal scar revision. The surgeon recommended routine preoperative clearance including history, physical and EKG. On 6/13/14 UR denied the Pre-Op Clearance including history, physical and EKG abdominal scar revision 14000.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-Op Clearance Including: History, Physical and EKG abdominal Scar Revision 14000:
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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) lumbar chapter.

Decision rationale: The issue presented for IMR review include: Pre-Op Clearance including history, physical and EKG abdominal scar revision 14000. The patient is a 51 year-old female with a 7/1/2007 date of injury. According to the 5/1/14 plastic surgery consultation, the patient has history of lumbar spine instrumentation via low midline abdominal approach and presents with abdominal scar pain and deformity. Exam shows small infraumbilical midline vertical incision, healed but with dysesthesias, adjacent contour abnormality without obvious incisional hernia. The treatment plan was for abdominal scar revision. The surgeon recommended routine preoperative clearance including history, physical and EKG. MTUS and ACOEM do not discuss routine pre-operative medical clearance with EKG. ODG guidelines were consulted. ODG for Preoperative electrocardiogram states: "Recommended for patients undergoing high-risk surgery and those undergoing intermediate-risk surgery who have additional risk factors. Patients undergoing low-risk surgery do not require electrocardiography" The guidelines list low-risk surgical procedures: "Low Risk Surgical Procedures:- These are defined as procedures with low risk (with reported cardiac risk generally less than 1%), and they include: Endoscopic procedures; Superficial procedures; Cataract surgery; Breast surgery; & Ambulatory surgery. ECGs are not indicated for low risk procedures. The superficial scar revision surgery would not require the ECG according to ODG guidelines. Recommend non-certification.