

Case Number:	CM14-0018234		
Date Assigned:	04/18/2014	Date of Injury:	06/12/2012
Decision Date:	06/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/13/2014

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:

This is a 56-year-old who injured his right shoulder on June 12, 2012. The records provided for review indicate that the claimant underwent a left shoulder arthroscopy with rotator cuff repair followed by subsequent manipulation under anesthesia in early 2013. A recent physical examination dated January 21, 2014 showed restricted motion at end points of forward flexion and external rotation and 4/5 motor strength with external rotation and abduction. There was positive Neer and Hawkins impingement testing. The claimant was diagnosed with shoulder impingement and labral tearing. The records contained a report of an MRI of the claimant's contralateral left shoulder but no formal imaging for the right shoulder in question. The recommendation for right shoulder arthroscopy, subacromial decompression, rotator cuff repair, and debridement was made. While the records indicate that the claimant has failed conservative care, there is no documentation regarding the specific conservative measures offered for this claimant's right shoulder.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PRE-OP LABORATORIES: 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 MTUS: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (ACOEM), 2ND EDITION, (2004), 7, INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS, 127

Decision rationale: Based on the Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations Chapter of the ACOEM Practice Guidelines, the request for preoperative laboratory testing would not be indicated as the need for operative intervention in regard to this claimant's right shoulder has not been established. The request for pre-operative laboratories is not medically necessary or appropriate.

PRE OPERATIVE 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 MTUS: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (ACOEM), 2ND EDITION, (2004), 7, INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS, 127

Decision rationale: Based on the Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations Chapter of the ACOEM Practice Guidelines, the request for preoperative medical clearance would not be indicated as the recommendation for surgery for right shoulder arthroscopy, subacromial decompression, rotator cuff repair, and debridement is not medically necessary. The request for pre-operative medical clearance is not medically necessary or appropriate.