

Case Number:	CM14-0018607		
Date Assigned:	04/18/2014	Date of Injury:	08/25/2011
Decision Date:	07/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/03/2014
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 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 is a 78-year-old male with a date of injury on 8/25/11. The patient has a history of metastatic/recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the lung with large cell rhabdoid features. He has received truncated chemotherapy with carboplatin and gemzar. A PET/CT scan on 1/6/14 demonstrated a mas in the lower aspect of the right major fissure measuring 3.1 X 1.5 cm which was larger from prior studies (2.7 X 1.5 cm on 10/2013). On the PET portion the activity of this lesion was measured at 7.6 compared to 4.5 on 10/2013. The provider was concerned that the tumor was on the verge of progression and requested PET/CT scans every 2 months.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PET/CT SCAN EVERY 2 MONTHS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The Role of Preoperative Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography in Patients with High-Risk Melanoma.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ASCO Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS guidelines do not specifically address this topic. The prior review of this case cited literature in high-risk melanoma patients. The ASCO guidelines

states that imaging such a PET/CT should be performed as indicated by the patient's symptoms. Therefore the original determination of a 6 month period of every 2 month PET/CT would be reasonable to determine if the mass is growing but an indefinite authorization would not be supported by the ASCO guidelines.