

Case Number:	CM14-0111514		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	08/02/2013
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/17/2014

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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 55-year-old female who was injured on August 2, 2013. The patient continued to experience right ankle and right foot pain. Physical examination was notable for antalgic gait, tenderness to palpation to dorsum of right ankle and foot, pain with right ankle eversion, decreased motor strength right ankle dorsiflexor group, and diminished sensation to light touch over the left toes. Diagnoses included right ankle sprain/strain; Treatment included physical therapy, home exercise programs, and medications. Requests for authorization for Psychological consult; extended office time, testing interpretation by technician, psychological testing, and report were submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychological consultation per Request for Authorization dated 6/6/14 quantity 1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Recommended Page(s): 100, 1.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 100-101.

Decision rationale:

Psychological evaluations are recommended and are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. The interpretations of the evaluation should provide clinicians with a better understanding of the patient in their social environment, thus allowing for more effective rehabilitation. For the evaluation and prediction of patients who have a high likelihood of developing chronic pain, a study of patients who were administered a standard battery psychological assessment test found that there is a psychosocial disability variable that is associated with those injured workers who are likely to develop chronic disability problems. In this case the request for psychological evaluation had been approved prior to the request. Duplication of the request is not medically necessary. The request is not considered medically necessary.

Extended office time per Request for Authorization dated 6/6/14 quantity 1.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Recommended Page(s): 100, 1.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 100-101.

Decision rationale: Psychological evaluations are recommended and are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. The interpretations of the evaluation should provide clinicians with a better understanding of the patient in their social environment, thus allowing for more effective rehabilitation. For the evaluation and prediction of patients who have a high likelihood of developing chronic pain, a study of patients who were administered a standard battery psychological assessment test found that there is a psychosocial disability variable that is associated with those injured workers who are likely to develop chronic disability problems. In this case the extended office time is not medically necessary. Documentation does not support severity of disease that requires extended office time. The request is not considered medically necessary.

Testing interpretation by technician per Request for Authorization dated 6/6/14 quantity 1.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Recommended Page(s): 100, 1.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 100-101.

Decision rationale: Psychological evaluations are recommended and are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. The interpretations of the evaluation should provide clinicians with a better understanding of the patient in their social environment, thus allowing for more effective rehabilitation. For the evaluation and prediction of patients who have a high likelihood of developing chronic pain, a study of patients who were administered a standard battery psychological assessment test found that there is a psychosocial disability variable that is associated with those injured workers who are likely to develop chronic disability problems. In this case testing interpretation by a technician is considered part of the consultation and necessity for separate testing is not supported by documentation. The request is not considered medically necessary.

Psychological testing per Request for Authorization dated 6/6/14 quantity 1.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Recommended Page(s): 100, 1.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 100-101.

Decision rationale: Psychological evaluations are recommended and are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. The interpretations of the evaluation should provide clinicians with a better understanding of the patient in their social environment, thus allowing for more effective rehabilitation. For the evaluation and prediction of patients who have a high likelihood of developing chronic pain, a study of patients who were administered a standard battery psychological assessment test found that there is a psychosocial disability variable that is associated with those injured workers who are likely to develop chronic disability problems. In this case psychological testing is considered part of the consultation and necessity for separate testing is not supported by documentation. The request is not considered medically necessary.

Report per Request for Authorization dated 6/6/14 quantity 1.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Recommended Page(s): 100, 1.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 100-101.

Decision rationale: Psychological evaluations are recommended and are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. The interpretations of the evaluation should provide clinicians with a better understanding of the patient in their social environment, thus allowing for more effective rehabilitation. For the evaluation and prediction of patients who have a high likelihood of developing chronic pain, a study of patients who were administered a standard battery psychological assessment test found that there is a psychosocial disability variable that is associated with those injured workers who are likely to develop chronic disability problems. In this case generation of a report is considered part of the consultation and necessity for additional reporting is not supported by documentation. The request is not considered medically necessary.