

Case Number:	CM14-0120978		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	09/01/2009
Decision Date:	09/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/31/2014

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 Psychiatry and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 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 injured worker is a 51 year old male who was injured at work on September 1, 2009. He suffered an unspecified injury while performing his duties as a gardener. The injured worker subsequently developed hip and lumbar pain, and was diagnosed with lumbar facet arthropathy. He was treated with physical therapy and facet joint injections, but continued to experience severe pain with significant physical limitations. He was prescribed Tramadol and Temazepam.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychology Evaluation and Treatment: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluation Page(s): 100-101.

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

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines indicate that psychological evaluations are useful in the evaluation of individuals suffering from chronic pain. The evaluations can help distinguish between conditions which are pre-existing, aggravated by the current injury. The injured worker has not benefited from physical treatments (physical therapy, injections), so that it is appropriate to refer him for a psychological evaluation, in order to facilitate improvement in pain symptoms.

However, it is premature at this point to request psychological treatment, as a decision regarding the necessity of treatment can only be decided after completion of the evaluation. For this reason, the request is not medically necessary.