

Case Number:	CM14-0129618		
Date Assigned:	08/20/2014	Date of Injury:	07/21/2009
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/14/2014

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 Preventive 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 34-year-old female with a 7/21/09 date of injury. At the time (8/7/14) of the Decision for Barium Enema, Upper Gastrointestinal Series, there is documentation of subjective (constant stomach pain, felt inflammation and could not sleep at night, could not use the restroom, could not eat) and objective (epigastric and lower quadrant tenderness) findings, current diagnoses (abdominal pain secondary to medications and rule out reflux esophagitis and constipation), and treatment to date (medications (including Narcosoft and Mineral oil)). There is no documentation of a condition/diagnosis (with supportive subjective/objective findings) for which a barium enema and upper Gastrointestinal Series are indicated.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Barium Enema, Upper Gastrointestinal Series: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0004274/A.D.A.M.> Medical Encyclopedia.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical

Evidence: <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/181753-workup#aw2aab6b5b3>;
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003817.htm>.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not address the issue. Medical Treatment Guideline identifies documentation of a condition/diagnosis (with supportive subjective/objective findings) for which a barium enema is indicated (such as: detect or screen for colon cancer, diagnose or monitor ulcerative colitis or Crohn disease, or diagnose the cause of blood in stools, diarrhea, or constipation), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a barium enema. Medical Treatment Guideline identifies documentation of symptoms/problems consistent with upper Gastrointestinal tract (such as a possible ulcer), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of an upper Gastrointestinal series. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of abdominal pain secondary to medications and rule out reflux esophagitis and constipation. However, despite documentation of subjective (constant stomach pain, felt inflammation and could not sleep at night, could not use the restroom, could not eat) and objective (epigastric and lower quadrant tenderness) findings, there is no documentation of a condition/diagnosis (with supportive subjective/objective findings) for which a barium enema is indicated (detect or screen for colon cancer, diagnose or monitor ulcerative colitis or Crohn disease, or diagnose the cause of blood in stools, diarrhea, or constipation) and upper Gastrointestinal Series (possible ulcer) is indicated. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Barium Enema, Upper Gastrointestinal Series is not medically necessary.