

Case Number:	CM14-0133814		
Date Assigned:	08/27/2014	Date of Injury:	04/01/1991
Decision Date:	10/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/21/2014

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 Dentistry, 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:

Records reviewed indicate that this is a 61 year old male patient involved in an industrial injury on 04/01/1999. Treating dentist is requesting pulp vitality testing. UR dentist report dated 07/25/14 states: "In this case, the most recent medical record submitted provides limited details regarding the claimant's current dental complaints, and clinical findings including specific oral exam findings. Further, it is noted that the claimant recently had an MRI completed, but the report has not been submitted for review. Without additional information, the medical necessity for pulp vitality consult and tests is not evident. Recommend non-certification. "

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pulp vitality consult and tests for tooth #3,5,6,8,9,11,12,13,14,15: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG-TWC Pain Procedure Summary

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: J Endod. 2013 Aug;39(8):965-9. doi: 10.1016/j.joen.2013.04.019. Epub 2013 May 21. Predictive values of thermal and electrical dental pulp tests: a clinical study. Villa-Chavez CE1, Patiño-Marín N, Loyola-Rodríguez JP, Zavala-Alonso NV, Martínez-Castañón

GA, Medina-SolÃ-s CE. RESULTS: The sensitivities of the diagnostic tests were 0.88 for the cold test, 0.86 for the heat test, and 0.76 for the e

Decision rationale: "Laser Doppler flowmetry and pulse oximetry are examples of vitality tests. Whilst the prospect is promising, there are still many practical issues that need to be addressed before vitality tests can replace sensibility tests (thermal/electric) as the standard clinical pulp diagnostic test."(Chen, 2009) "The cold test was the most accurate method for diagnostic testing. "Based on the medical reference mentioned above, the pulp vitality test is not medically necessary. The cold/thermal testing has been shown to be the most accurate methods for diagnostic testing.