

Case Number:	CM14-0137444		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	05/14/1998
Decision Date:	10/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/26/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 52-year-old male with a 5/14/98 date of injury. At the time (5/5/14) of request for authorization for Functional capacity evaluation, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain) and objective (antalgic gait, muscle spasm noted, and decreased lumbar range of motion with pain) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar disc displacement), and treatment to date (medications and trigger point injections). There is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW (return to work) attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI (maximum medical improvement)/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional capacity evaluation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines/Functional Capacity Evaluation

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Non-MTUS Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness for Duty, Functional capacity evaluation (FCE) and on the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page(s) 137-138.

Decision rationale: Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of lumbar disc displacement. However, there is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Functional capacity evaluation is not medically necessary.