

Case Number:	CM14-0140744		
Date Assigned:	09/10/2014	Date of Injury:	02/04/2014
Decision Date:	11/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/29/2014

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 Occupational 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:

This case involves a 25 year old male who has developed persistent pulmonary complaints subsequent to exposure to combustion products on 2/04/14. He has pre-existing asthma and is being treated with Albuterol and had discontinued use of Singulair. The treating physician has recommended he start taking the Singulair again.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Singulair 10mg #30: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/s/singulair/singulair_pi.pdf

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines do not deal with this issue. In these circumstances, Singulair would be considered a 2nd line medication. Albuterol would be considered the 1st line medication. The Singulair is consistent with recommended practice standards; therefore, is medically necessary.