

Case Number:	CM14-0157301		
Date Assigned:	09/30/2014	Date of Injury:	02/22/2009
Decision Date:	10/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2014

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 General Surgery and is licensed to practice in California and Nevada. 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 53 year old male has a history of atrial fibrillation which was diagnosed 2/2013. He had had symptoms of same for several months prior. Conservative management using multiple pharmaceuticals had failed due to side effects. He underwent ablation 9/10/13 and was again seen 7/3/14 at which time the patient reported recurrent symptoms and that he had been started on Flecainide and Paradaxa without recurrence now for 2 weeks. The patient is stable and doing well with respect to his hypertension and his recurrent paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. However, the patient prefers to have repeat ablation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PVI, CTI ablation (hypertension, atrial fibrillation): Upheld

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 Catheter Ablation, Mark L Greenberg, MD; Chief Editor: Jeffrey N Rottman, MD; Medscape; Updated 4/12/13

Decision rationale: The second indication is atrial fibrillation with lifestyle-impairing symptoms and inefficacy or intolerance of at least 1 anti-arrhythmic agent. The present medication regimen

has proven to be effective and without deleterious side effects that have been documented to this reviewer. If he should have side effects with this drug combination of Flecainide and Paradaxa he should be reconsidered for repeat ablation. That is not the issue at this time. Therefore, PVI, CTI ablation (hypertension, arterial fibrillation) is not medically necessary.