MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0167172		
Date Assigned:	10/14/2014	Date of Injury:	04/01/2010
Decision Date:	11/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/10/2014

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 Psychology 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:

The claimant is a 55 year-old male [redacted] with cumulative dates of injury. The claimant sustained injury to his psyche as the result of workplace stress while working for [redacted]. In the "Summary for Independent Medical Review" dated 10/20/14, [redacted] diagnosed the claimant with Major depressive disorder, single episode, severe, with psychotic features. The claimant has been receiving both psychiatric and psychological services to treat his psychiatric symptoms.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychological re-evaluation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological Evaluations Page(s): 100-101.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological evaluations Page(s): 100 101.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS guideline regarding psychological evaluations will be used as reference for this case. Based on the review of the very limited medical records, the claimant was initially evaluated by [redacted] in August 2011. He was re-evaluated in October 2012 and participated in individual psychotherapy with [redacted] and group therapy with

[redacted]. He also received medication management services from psychiatrist, [redacted]. It appears that the claimant has continued to receive both psychiatric and psychological services with some brief interruptions. It is further reported that the claimant participated in 26 sessions of individual CBT in 2014. Since the claimant has been receiving ongoing psychological and psychiatric services for which the providers are providing ongoing assessment based on their work with the claimant, the need for a re-evaluation including psychological testing does not appear necessary. Typically, psychological evaluations are conducted prior to the start of treatment in order to offer specific diagnostic information and provide appropriate treatment recommendations. That is not needed in this case as the claimant has been receiving fairly consistent treatment. As a result, the request for a "Psychological re-evaluation" is not medically necessary.