

Case Number:	CM14-0180534		
Date Assigned:	11/05/2014	Date of Injury:	12/12/2008
Decision Date:	12/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/30/2014

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 Psychologist 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 53 year-old female [REDACTED] with a date of injury of 12/12/08. The claimant sustained injury while working for [REDACTED]. In his PR-2 report dated 10/11/14, [REDACTED] diagnosed the claimant with: (1) Status post left shoulder surgery; (2) Right shoulder impingement syndrome; (3) Cervical strain; (4) Lumbar strain; and (5) Depression. The request under review is for a psychiatric consultation due to the claimant's symptoms of depression.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychiatric Consult: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 15 Stress Related Conditions Page(s): 398-404.

Decision rationale: The ACOEM guideline regarding referrals will be used as reference for this case. Based on the review of the limited medical records, the claimant has been treating with [REDACTED] for her orthopedic injuries. During his treatment, [REDACTED] has observed and made note of the claimant's symptoms of depression. In his March PR-2 report, [REDACTED]

listed a diagnosis of depression. In his 5/19/14 PR-2 report, [REDACTED] wrote, "The patient needs to be seen by psychiatry as soon as possible." The guideline states that "It is recommended that serious conditions such as severe depression and schizophrenia be referred to a specialist, while common psychiatric conditions, such as mild depression, are referred to a specialist after symptoms continue for more than six to eight weeks." Based on this guideline, the request for a "Psychiatric Consult" is appropriate and medically necessary.