

Case Number:	CM14-0180979		
Date Assigned:	11/05/2014	Date of Injury:	03/14/2013
Decision Date:	12/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/31/2014

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 Preventive Medicine, has a subspecialty in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in Iowa. 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 is a 41 year old patient with date of injury of 03/14/2013. Medical records indicate the patient is undergoing treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome on the left, left wrist sprain/strain and DeQuervain's tenosynovitis. Subjective complaints include left wrist pain, increased pain with cold weather and repetitive motions. Objective findings include tenderness along left wrist, CMC and first extensor, mild tenderness along carpal tunnel; negative Tinel's at the wrist; full strength to resisted function. Treatment has consisted of injections, Tramadol ER, Nalfon, Protonix, bracing, and hot and cold wraps. EMG studies were normal. The utilization review determination was rendered on 09/30/2014 recommending non-certification of Comprehensive metabolic panel, CBC, and UA for kidney and liver function.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Comprehensive metabolic panel, CBC, and UA for kidney and liver function: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, specific drug list and adverse effects Page(s): 70. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Assessment, page(s) 21-42

Decision rationale: MTUS references complete blood count (CBC) in the context of NSAID adverse effective monitoring, "Routine Suggested Monitoring: Package inserts for NSAIDs recommend periodic lab monitoring of a CBC and chemistry profile (including liver and renal function tests). There has been a recommendation to measure liver transaminases within 4 to 8 weeks after starting therapy, but the interval of repeating lab tests after this treatment duration has not been established." ACOEM references CBC in the context of evaluation for septic arthritis. Additionally, ACOEM states "The examining physician should use some judgment about what should or should not be done. Most examinations will need to focus on the presenting complaint. From the items presented, the physician should select what needs to be done." ACOEM discusses the use of laboratory test to aid in the diagnosis and management of a patient's injury. The treating physician does not provide medical documentation as to why a Comprehensive metabolic panel urine analysis for kidney and liver function, and CBC are necessary to treat the patient's industrial wrist injury. There is no documentation of infection (septic joint), adverse effects from NSAID use, adverse medication side effect, liver disease, or kidney disease that would require additional lab work for treatment and management. As such, the request for Comprehensive metabolic panel, CBC, and UA for kidney and liver function is not medically necessary.