

Case Number:	CM14-0184262		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2014	Date of Injury:	02/15/2010
Decision Date:	12/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/05/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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:

64 year old male claimant with an industrial injury dated 02/15/10. The patient is status post a partial amputation of the fourth left finger, fusion of the left third DIP joint, cubital tunnel syndrome, and ulnar neuropathy of the left elbow. Exam note 09/15/14 states the patient returns with left arm, left wrist, and left hand/fingers pain. The patient rates the pain a 3/10 and states that the medications help with pain relief. Upon physical exam the patient demonstrated a range of motion of 0'-140'. The patient had an 80' pronation and supination of the forearm, 60' wrist dorsiflexion, 60' palmar flexion, and 20' radial/ulnar deviation of the wrist. The patient had tenderness over the fourth PIP joint, and completed a positive Tinel's test over the cubital tunnel. Current medications include ibuprofen, and famotidine. Treatment includes a continuation of medication.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Labs - CBC, Chem 8, CPK, CRP, Hepatic Panel, Arthritis Panel: 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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and ODG are silent on the issue of preoperative clearance. Alternative guidelines were therefore referenced.

<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> States that patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than 40 and female is greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. In this case the claimant is 64 years old and does not have any evidence in the cited records from 9/15/14 of significant medical comorbidities to support a need for labs other than a CBC. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.

EMG left upper extremity: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation

http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/800_899/0866.html

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Carpal Tunnel, Electrodiagnostic studies

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of EMG/NCV testing. According to the ODG, Carpal tunnel section, "Recommended in patients with clinical signs of CTS who may be candidates for surgery. Appropriate electrodiagnostic studies (EDS) include nerve conduction studies (NCS)." In this case there is no evidence of neurologic deficits or carpal tunnel syndrome in the cited records from 9/15/14 to warrant NCS or EMG. Therefore the determination is for non-certification.