

Case Number:	CM14-0020164		
Date Assigned:	02/21/2014	Date of Injury:	12/31/2013
Decision Date:	07/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/19/2014

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 Occupational Medicine 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:

This is a 51-year-old male patient with a 12/31/13 date of injury. 1/7/14 doctor's first report indicates sharp left knee pain, right knee pain, and low back pain. Physical exam demonstrates limited lumbar range of motion, sensory deficits in the right L3-4 dermatome.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI OF THE LUMBAR SPINE.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines, Low Back Procedure.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low Back Chapter, MRI.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS supports imaging of the lumbar spine in patients with red flag diagnoses where plain film radiographs are negative; unequivocal objective findings that identify specific nerve compromise on the neurologic examination, failure to respond to treatment, and consideration for surgery. However, the patient's date of injury was quite recent. There is no evidence of response to the initial course of PT. Plain films were not obtained. In the absence of

red flag findings, imaging is considered premature. Therefore, the request for MRI of The Lumbar Spine was not medically necessary.