

Case Number:	CM14-0022692		
Date Assigned:	06/11/2014	Date of Injury:	07/04/2011
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/24/2014

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 Ophthalmology 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 patient is a 59 year-old female with the diagnosis of unexplained vision loss in the left eye, for whom request is made for neuro-ophthalmologist consultation. Per exam dated 11/8/2013, the patient complains of blurred vision in the left eye since neck surgery 7/9/2013. Visual acuity is 20/40 in both eyes, and manifest refraction improves vision to 20/30 in both eyes (prior exam 10/16/2013). There is no afferent pupillary defect. Visual field testing is interpreted as full in both eyes. Referral was made to a Neurologist, who diagnosed the patient with a left sided partial Horner's syndrome.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

OUTPATIENT NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGIST CONSULTATION: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Eye Chapter, Ophthalmic Consultation.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) - Eye Chapter - Ophthalmic consultation; silent regarding Neuro-ophthalmology consultations.

Decision rationale: The patient's manifest refraction documents vision of 20/30 in both eyes on 10/16/2013, and the visual acuity is symmetrical in both eyes. Formal visual field testing was normal. The patient has a left sided partial Horner's Syndrome with left sided ptosis that is noted to be improving. Neurology consultation did not reveal any other neurologic deficits. Additional clinical information has not been submitted indicating rationale for neuro-ophthalmology consultation. Therefore, per ODG, the request is not medically necessary.