

Case Number:	CM14-0023204		
Date Assigned:	05/14/2014	Date of Injury:	08/14/2010
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/13/2014
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 Internal 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 female patient who has submitted a claim for Chondromalacia of Patella associated with an industrial injury date of August 14, 2010. Medical records from 2013 were reviewed, which showed that the patient complained of right knee pain. She denied any fever or major swelling. On physical examination, range of motion was limited but no instability was noted. Treatment to date has included medications. Utilization review from February 13, 2014 denied the request for rheumatoid factor, ANA-lyzer panel, and thyroid panel because these bear significance in the evaluation of non-occupational disorders and are not associated with the presence or absence of infection of the knee or complication with the orthopedic prosthesis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RHEUMATOID FACTOR: 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: "Rheumatoid Factor (RF)." MedlinePlus. U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health <<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003548.htm>>.

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not specifically address rheumatoid factor (RF). Per the Strength of Evidence hierarchy established by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, and Medline Plus, which is the National Institutes of Health's web site, produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine was used instead. Medline Plus states that rheumatoid factor is a blood test that measures the amount of RF antibody in the blood. The test is most often used to help diagnose rheumatoid arthritis or Sjorgen syndrome. In this case, a clear rationale for rheumatoid factor was not provided in the records for review. There was also no discussion regarding possible diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis or Sjorgen syndrome. There is no clear indication for this test at this time. Therefore, the request for rheumatoid factor test is not medically necessary.

ANA-LYZER 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: "Antinuclear antibody panel." MedlinePlus. U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health <<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003535.htm>>.

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not specifically address antinuclear antibody panel. Per the Strength of Evidence hierarchy established by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, and Medline Plus, which is the National Institutes of Health's web site, produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine was used instead. Medline Plus states that the antinuclear antibody panel is a blood test that looks at antinuclear antibodies (ANA). The test may be performed if the patient has signs of an autoimmune disorder, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus. In this case, a clear rationale for ANA-lyzer panel was not provided in the records for review. There was also no discussion regarding possible diagnosis of an autoimmune disorder. There is no clear indication for this test at this time. Therefore, the request for analyzer panel is not medically necessary.

THYROID 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: "Thyroid function tests." MedlinePlus. U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health <<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003444.htm>>.

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not specifically address thyroid function tests. Per the Strength of Evidence hierarchy established by

the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, and Medline Plus, which is the National Institutes of Health's web site, produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine was used instead. Medline Plus states that thyroid function tests are common tests used to tell how well the thyroid is working. In this case, a clear rationale for thyroid panel was not provided in the records for review. There was also no discussion regarding possible diagnosis of a thyroid disorder. There is no clear indication for this test at this time. Therefore, the request for thyroid panel is not medically necessary.