

Case Number:	CM14-0023443		
Date Assigned:	05/12/2014	Date of Injury:	10/01/2013
Decision Date:	07/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/25/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 37 year-old male [REDACTED] worker who was injured on 10/1/13. He has been diagnosed with cervical/trapezial strain; thoracic strain; lumbar sprain/strain with lower extremity radiculopathy and bilateral sacroiliac joint sprain. According to the 1/17/14 orthopedic report from [REDACTED], the patient did not have lasting benefit from acupuncture, and the back pain was getting worse. The patient complained of not being able to release bowel or bladder fully and ED/sexual dysfunction. He requests a neurology/urology consult for bowel/bladder and sexual problems and internal medicine consult for GI upset. On 2/14/14 UR approved the neurology consult, but denied the urology consult, and also denied an internal medicine consult.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

UROLOGY CONSULTATION: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, page 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, page 127.

Decision rationale: The patient was reported to have difficulty obtaining an erection and difficulty completely voiding his bladder. The orthopedist recommended consultation with a urologist on this. MTUS does not discuss urology consultations. ACOEM guidelines were consulted. ACOEM states a referral can be made to other specialists when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. The request appears to be in accordance with ACOEM guidelines.

INTERNAL MEDICINE CONSULTATION: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, page 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, page 127.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with back pain, difficulty with bowel/bladder and ED. The 1/17/14 report requested internal medicine consult for GI upset, but the report does not mention GI upset, or provide any GI complaints or diagnoses. ACOEM guidelines do suggest consultations if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. However, without discussing the GI issues, it is not known whether the diagnosis is uncertain or complex, or why the internal medicine consult is necessary, or what information the physician is expecting to get from it. The request does not appear to be necessary or in accordance with the ACOEM guidelines.