

Case Number:	CM14-0028591		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	10/31/2012
Decision Date:	07/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/06/2014

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 New York. 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 43-year-old female with a date of injury of October 31, 2012. The patient has chronic neck pain. The patient has tried physical therapy. The patient has been approved for anterior cervical discectomy and fusion between C4 and C6. At issue is whether 2 day inpatient stay is medically necessary after the surgery.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

2 DAY INPATIENT STAY: 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:ODG hospital stays length guidelines: Best practice guideline- 1 day.

Decision rationale: 2 day inpatient stay is not medically necessary after uncomplicated ACDF surgery. Best practice guidelines indicate one day hospital stay. 2 days of inpatient hospitalization after uncomplicated anterior cervical discectomy and fusion is above recommended guidelines.ODG hospital stay away practice guidelines indicate that the best practice target is 1 day after the surgery of hospitalization.

