

Case Number:	CM14-0030291		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	06/04/2010
Decision Date:	07/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/10/2014

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 Spinal Surgery, has a subspecialty in 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 male with a date of injury of 2014. He has chronic low back pain. Lumbar MRI reveals central disc bulge at L4-5 and symptoms of at L5-S1. The patient has not gotten better with medications and attempts at conservative measures. At issue is whether lumbar discogram at L4-S1 is medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lumbar Discogram L4-S1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303-305.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 308-310. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG.

Decision rationale: Lumbar discography is not medically necessary for this patient. Specifically, the patient is not a candidate for lumbar fusion. The patient does not have a diagnosis consistent with indications for lumbar fusion. There is no evidence of lumbar instability, fracture or tumor. Lumbar discogram is done prior to preoperative preparation for lumbar fusion. The request for lumbar fusion, lumbar discography is not medically necessary.