

Case Number:	CM14-0031237		
Date Assigned:	06/13/2014	Date of Injury:	01/01/2010
Decision Date:	07/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/12/2014

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 Occupational 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:

In a progress note dated July 17, 2013, it was stated that the injured worker had multiple comorbidities, including diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. The injured worker again stated that her shoulder pain has progressively worsened through nine years of cumulative trauma at work. It was stated that the injured worker could be considered a candidate for both left shoulder surgery and/or right shoulder surgery. The injured worker had limited range of motion of both shoulders with flexion and abduction in the 110-degree range. The attending provider felt that there might be evidence of a loose body about the left shoulder with a possible Superior Labrum Anterior and Posterior (SLAP) tear versus rotator cuff tear about the right shoulder. The injured worker was reportedly weak about both muscles. The injured worker was placed off of work, and on total temporary disability. In a left shoulder MR arthrogram report dated July 12, 2013, the injured worker was described as status post superior labral debridement and status post left shoulder rotator cuff repair surgery. The left rotator cuff was intact, there was some mild postoperative irregularity about the labrum noted, as well as scar tissue about the left shoulder rotator interval. On October 31, 2013, the injured worker was again placed off of work, back on total temporary disability, and asked to consult a shoulder surgeon.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) WITHOUT CONTRAST, LEFT SHOULDER: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 203.

Decision rationale: Most of the information on file points to the injured worker's current diagnosis of adhesive capsulitis following earlier left shoulder surgery. While the MTUS ACOEM Guideline do support MRI imaging to help establish a diagnosis of adhesive capsulitis if the diagnosis is unclear; in this case the applicant had recent MR arthrography which did establish a diagnosis of adhesive capsulitis about the shoulder. It is unclear why a repeat non-contrast shoulder MRI would be necessary. No clear or compelling rationale was attached to the request for authorization for the test in question or to the application for Independent Medical Review. It was not clearly stated that the injured worker was considering further shoulder surgery. The attending provider did not voice any concerns about the quality of the shoulder MRI in question and/or suggest that the clinical presentation had changed markedly between the date of the earlier shoulder MR arthrogram, July 12, 2013 and the date of the Utilization Review report, February 12, 2014. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.