

Case Number:	CM14-0033749		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	08/08/2001
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/17/2014

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 Dentist 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 55 years old right handed female, involved in an industrial injury on 08/08/2001. She has been diagnosed by her physician [REDACTED] of having dry mouth secondary to long term opioid use for her industrial injury. The physician is requesting this patient be evaluated by a dentist for her oral teeth decay due to dry mouth caused by her using medications for her industrial injury.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prospective request for 1 dental evaluation for oral care: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition, (2004).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 7, Page 127.

Decision rationale: The dentist states on his report dated 01/31/2014 page 1, "that patient continues to have significant rotting of teeth because of the side effects of her pain medications which include having a very dry mouth. She has seen a dental expert who does note that these finding are significant and due to the side effects of medications." The report of this dental expert is not provided to this IMR reviewer. However AME report dated 09/05/2013 does state

"there is good evidence for drug abuse and possibly addiction". The dentist states that she needs to be evaluated for this further, but he does not address the causation of her teeth decay. This IMR reviewer recommends a Dental evaluation is medically necessary to determine the cause of this patient's extensive tooth decay, and if the dentist believes the tooth decay is due to the dry mouth caused by her taking medications for her industrial injury, then this patient should also be afforded oral/dental treatment on an industrial basis.