

Case Number:	CM14-0033879		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	02/23/2012
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/18/2014

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 Family Medicine, has a subspecialty in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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 worker is a 69 year old male who was injured on 2/23/12. He has the diagnoses of diabetes mellitus, tenosynovitis left wrist, left knee chondromalacia, and left wrist degenerative joint disease. He was treated with conservative therapy including oral medications, chiropractor treatments, steroid injections, exercise, bracing, physical therapy, and topical analgesics, and later right knee total replacement. As stated in the notes provided for review, the worker had blood testing for a metabolic panel, hepatic function, and renal function (no actual lab results were found in the documents provided) on 8/9/13. X-rays of the left wrist was also done on 8/9/13 showing degenerative joint disease of the thumb suggestive of osteoarthritis. Left wrist MRI was also done on 9/1/13 showing intercarpal fusion and synovitis, localized effusion. On 2/3/14 MRI of her lower back revealed degenerative disc disease, facet arthropathy, canal stenosis, and neural foraminal narrowing. Later on 2/19/14 tests were ordered including vitamin D, HgBA1C, TSH, lipid profile, collagen profile, metabolic panel, magnesium, rheumatoid factor, anti-citrullinated protein antibody, complete blood count, and peroxidase anti-body test. No progress note was found in the documents provided explaining the reasoning for requesting these tests in this situation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODY AND THYROID PEROXIDASE ANTIBODY TEST: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - TWC, Online Edition, Chapter: Diabetes, Pre-diabetes Screening, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id+15711&search=lipid+profile>, National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation: Medscape, Antithyroid Antibody (<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2086819-overview#a30>) Medscape, Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibody (<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2094136-overview#a30>) Medscape, Lipid Profile (<http://emedicine.me>).

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines do not address specifically blood testing for medical condition diagnosis or monitoring. Medscape states that each of the tests requested have indications for their use and involve confirming diagnosis or monitoring disease progression or resolution in the categories of diabetes, autoimmune disease, thyroid disease, gout, nutrient deficiency, and others. There was no evidence in the notes provided that the worker had an autoimmune cause of his musculoskeletal pain, a thyroid disorder, high cholesterol, or a blood disorder to justify testing or monitoring. Although gout can cause arthritis, according to the notes, the presentation does appear to resemble this disease and in the opinion of the reviewer did not justify testing for a uric acid in this case. Testing for a magnesium level, blood sugar, and hemoglobin A1c may have been reasonable as the worker had the diagnosis of diabetes, however the worker had testing done in 8/13 which may have included some of these, although without test results to review, there is not way for the reviewer to know if testing for these is timely and due or not appropriate. No evidence for documented reasoning of testing for any of the requested tests for this worker were found in the documents provided for review. Without further documentation to help justify the need for these tests and with the presenting symptoms, physical findings, and imaging, the Anti-CCP, Anti-TPO, CBC, CMP, Collagen profile, lipid profile, TSH, T4, T3, Uric acid, Hgba1c, RF, magnesium, and vitamin D are all not medically necessary.

COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT, COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL, COLLAGEN PROFILE, AND LIPID PROFILE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - TWC, Online Edition, Chapter: Diabetes, Pre-diabetes Screening, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id+15711&search=lipid+profile>, National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC).

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GLYCOSYLATED HEMOGLOBIN TEST, THYROID STIMULATING HORMONE, TRIODOTHYRONINE AND THYROXINE TEST AND URIC ACID TEST: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - TWC, Online Edition, Chapter: Diabetes, Pre-diabetes Screening, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id+15711&search=lipid+profile>, National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC).

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VITAMIN D LEVEL TEST, RED BLOOD CELL TEST, MAGNESIUM TEST, RHEUMATOID FACTOR TEST: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - TWC, Online Edition, Chapter: Diabetes, Pre-diabetes Screening, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id+15711&search=lipid+profile>, National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC).

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