

Case Number:	CM14-0034420		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	10/20/2010
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/19/2014

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:

The patient is a 37 year-old female, DOI 10/20/10. Subsequent to a lifting injury she has developed chronic neck, lumbar and diffuse shoulder to hand upper extremity pain. She has been diagnosed with a carpal tunnel syndrome. She has not returned to the work force and there is no documentation that any employer is actively trying to accommodate her for specific tasks.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional capacity evaluation (FCE) for the lumbar spine: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)- Fitness for Duty Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, IME's, page(s) 137.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines are quite specific regarding the use of FCE's. It is noted that they are not very accurate in determining prolonged work capability. The testing reflects a very short time frame and the tests have a high level of subjectivity. FCE's are only recommended when there is close collaboration with an employer trying to work out specific

duties that might be compatible at least on a trial basis. There is no documentation that there is any specific employer or job task that is being coordinated with this request. The FCE testing is medically necessary under these circumstances.