

Case Number:	CM14-0035755		
Date Assigned:	06/23/2014	Date of Injury:	05/23/2003
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/24/2014

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 Psychiatry and is licensed to practice in Illinois and Wisconsin. 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 54 year old male who sustained an injury in June of 2000. It appears that he has been on Celexa since 2007, which has apparently been prescribed by his PCP (Primary care physician). The data submitted for review indicate that he has been in psychotherapy but there is no indication as to the details in terms of number of sessions, degree of progress, etc. In January of this year he underwent psychological testing which suggested a diagnosis of Dysthymic Disorder. Medications and psychotherapy were recommended with no specifics given. A request has been made for coverage for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. The request was denied.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Psychiatric evaluation and treatment: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd. Edition, 2004 page 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 15 Stress Related Conditions Page(s): 398.

Decision rationale: The above referenced guideline indicates that "common psychiatric conditions, such as mild depression, be referred to a specialist after symptoms continue for more

than six to eight weeks". The data submitted for review indicate that as of November of last year he was still extremely depressed and in a downward spiral despite ongoing medication management by his PCP and having been on Celexa for several years. As such a psychiatric evaluation and ongoing medication management are indicated according to current clinical research, evidence based best practice standards and expert consensus as set forth in the ACOEM guidelines.