

Case Number:	CM14-0044651		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	12/03/2012
Decision Date:	08/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/31/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/11/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 patient with a date of injury of 12/3/12. A utilization review determination dated 3/31/14 recommends non-certification of functional capacity evaluation (FCE). The 2/27/14 medical report identifies pain in the neck, shoulders, elbows, and wrists with some improvement in all areas. She also complains of depression and sleep disturbance. On exam, there is tenderness in all above noted areas, with limited ROM in the cervical spine and shoulders. The patient is said to be approaching MMI and will return to work on Monday. A final physical performance FCE was requested to ensure this patient can safely meet the physical demands of her occupation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional capacity evaluation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Chapter 7, pp 132-139.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 1 Prevention Page(s): 12. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Fitness for Duty Chapter, Functional Capacity Evaluation.

Decision rationale: Regarding request for functional capacity evaluation, CA MTUS and ACOEM state that there is not good evidence that functional capacity evaluations are correlated with a lower frequency of health complaints or injuries. ODG states that functional capacity evaluations are recommended when case management is being hampered by complex issues such as prior unsuccessful return to work attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, or injuries that require detailed explanation of a worker's abilities. Additionally, guidelines recommend that the patient be close to or at maximum medical improvement with all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions clarified. Within the documentation available for review, the patient is noted to be approaching MMI, but there is no indication that there have been prior unsuccessful return to work attempts, conflicting medical reporting, or injuries that would require detailed exploration. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested functional capacity evaluation is not medically necessary.