MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0048547		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	05/16/2009
Decision Date:	09/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/28/2014

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 5/16/09. A utilization review determination dated 3/7/14 recommends non-certification of a dermatology consult as ODG indicates that combination treatment with H1 and H2 antagonists is effective for itching associated with burn wounds. It referenced a 2/20/14 medical report identifying that a dermatology consult was requested because of skin irritation with itching due to the severe burns sustained in a car accident. 4/17/14 medical report identifies that the patient's main complaint is very dry skin. He is getting tears on his inner thighs, back of the legs, and back just from walking. The different ointments that have been prescribed, both OTC and prescription, have not worked. Photographs have been taken to emphasize the need for a dermatology consult. The dry skin is leading to cracks and lesions that could lead to other problems and the provider notes that this is out of his realm.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One dermatology consult: 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), Burns Itch control.

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) Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations Chapter, Page 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for a dermatology consult, California MTUS does not address this issue. ACOEM supports consultation if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. Within the documentation available for review, the patient has itching and dry skin after burns over 70-79% body surface area. This has caused cracking and lesions in multiple areas. The provider has tried multiple OTC and prescription ointments without success, and he has recommended a dermatology consult as this is outside of his scope of practice. In light of the above, the currently requested dermatology consult is medically necessary.