

Case Number:	CM14-0050973		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	04/10/2008
Decision Date:	07/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/25/2014
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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 52 year old female with an injury date of 04/10/08. Based on the 01/31/14 progress report provided by [REDACTED], the patient has had severe panic attacks and has been sent to the ER several times. We have frequent contact due to her instability and self-injuring behavior. She has honored our suicide contract. The patient's diagnoses include chronic pain syndrome, severe and recurrent major depression and reflex sympathetic dystrophy. [REDACTED] is requesting for an evaluation with [REDACTED] and 3 sessions of medication management. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 02/25/14. [REDACTED] is the requesting provider and provided treatment reports from 09/03/13- 01/31/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Evaluation with [REDACTED]: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 15 Stress Related Conditions Page(s): 388.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Non-MTUS ACOEM Practice Guidelines, Chapter 7: Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

Decision rationale: According to the 01/31/14 report by [REDACTED], the patient has had severe panic attacks and has been sent to the ER several times. The request is for an evaluation with [REDACTED] for supervision of psychiatric medications. ACOEM page 127 states the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists 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. The ACOEM supports specialty consultation and the patient should be allowed an evaluation with [REDACTED]. Therefore the request is medically necessary.

Medication Management x 3 sessions.: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 15 Stress Related Conditions Page(s): 321.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Outcomes and Endpoints.

Decision rationale: According to the 01/31/14 report by [REDACTED], the patient has had severe panic attacks and has been sent to the ER several times. The request is for medication management x 3 sessions. MTUS guidelines page 8 states, "The physician should periodically review the course of treatment of the patient and any new information about the etiology of the pain, or the patient's state of health. Continuation or modification of pain management depends on the physician's evaluation of progress toward treatment objectives." The medication management is intended to determine the necessity for a course of treatment, the treatment itself, and the duration. Recommendation is for authorization.