

Case Number:	CM14-0054503		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	05/01/2008
Decision Date:	09/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/23/2014

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 59 year-old female with a 5/1/08 date of injury. She was diagnosed with retained symptomatic lumbar spinal hardware. On 3/28/14 UR reviewed a 3/21/14 RFA from [REDACTED], and denied a request for a Cellsaver machine rental; Cellsaver disposal kit; Cellsaver technical assistance hours; and autologous blood one day, due to lack of information. UR cites a review article guideline for Cell Salvage that states it may be indicated in numerous types of invasive procedures such as major spine surgery. UR notes the patient has recommendations for lumbar spinal hardware removal, possible regrafting of screw holes and nerve root exploration, but denies Cell Salvage system because it was not known whether the surgery was authorized. On 4/25/14, Cardio Vascular Plus, appealed the 3/28/14 UR decision documenting the patient underwent the lumbar spinal surgery on 3/21/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cell machine rental, & supply/disposal kit, technical assistance hours and one day of autologous blood: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3096856>, Blood Transfus.2011. April.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov.

Decision rationale: The patient is a 59 year-old female with a 5/1/08 date of injury. She was diagnosed with retained symptomatic lumbar spinal hardware. On 3/28/14 UR reviewed a 3/21/14 RFA from [REDACTED], and denied a request for a CellSaver machine rental; CellSaver disposal kit; CellSaver technical assistance hours; and autologous blood one day. The CellSaver device and associated items are the issues presented before this IMR. The UR letter from 3/28/14, cites a review article guideline for Cell Salvage that states it may be indicated in numerous types of invasive procedures such as major spine surgery. UR notes the patient has recommendations for lumbar spinal hardware removal, possible regrafting of screw holes and nerve root exploration, but denies Cell Salvage system because it was not known whether the surgery was authorized. On 4/25/14, Cardio Vascular Plus, appealed the 3/28/14 UR decision documenting the patient underwent the lumbar spinal surgery on 3/21/14. The 3/21/14 operative report from [REDACTED], shows L3 to S1 removal of bilateral lumbar spinal hardware and regrafting of pedicle screw holes, using demineralized bone matrix, augmented with iliac crest marrow, iliac crest marrow aspiration, extensive removal of lumbar scar tissue L3 to S1; L3 to S1 nerve root exploration with extensive lysis of epidural adhesions using microscope. MTUS and ACOEM guidelines did not discuss the CellSaver. The database www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov guidelines for Cell Salvage were used. The guidelines state ". Cell salvage may be indicated in numerous types of invasive procedures such as orthopaedics surgeries such as major spine surgery" The Cell Machine rental and supply/disposal kit, technical assistance hours and one day of autologous blood appear to be in accordance with the guideline. The request is medically necessary.