

Case Number:	CM14-0060445		
Date Assigned:	07/09/2014	Date of Injury:	02/08/2012
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/01/2014

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 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 61 year-old patient sustained a cumulative trauma injury to the shoulders, wrists/hands on 2/8/12 from prolonged repetitive job activities while employed by [REDACTED]. Request(s) under consideration include Pre-Op Medical Clearance. The patient was scheduled for right shoulder arthroscopic revision and rotator cuff repair with post-op PT x 12 visits; cold unit; sling and pre-op clearance with internist. Work status report dated 3/17/14 from the PA-c/provider stated patient to remain TTD until 4/15/14. Report of 3/25/14 from the provider noted the patient with complaints of pain in bilateral legs with numbness and tingling. Social history noted patient does not smoke or drink alcohol and does not use illegal drugs. There is no significant past medical history noted. Exam showed right shoulder with TTP; limited range of flex on right to 120 degrees; positive Hawkins, weakness grade of 4/5; cervical spine with diffuse tenderness and pain with range of motion; left shoulder with generalized tenderness and positive provocative testing; positive Phalen's without tenderness of wrists and TTP of right elbow with healed surgical incision. Diagnoses included cervical spine/ upper back sprain/strain/DDD; thoracic spine sprain/strain; right shoulder impingement with subacromial bursitis and rotator cuff tendinopathy/ AC joint arthropathy/ arthrosis/ degenerative arthritis; s/p right shoulder arthroscopy with SAD on 5/6/13; right wrist chronic tenosynovitis; CTS; s/p left CTR on 1/28/13 and right CTR on 9/10/12; right elbow ulnar neuropathy and Guyon canal entrapment s/p decompression on 9/10/12. Treatment included right shoulder revision arthroscopy with pre-op clearance. There is a dated utilization peer review dated 4/16/14 noting non-certification for shoulder revision arthroscopy and rotator cuff repair. Request(s) for Pre-Op Medical Clearance was non-certified on 4/16/14 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-Op Medical Clearance: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

Decision rationale: ACOEM and MTUS are silent on internal medicine consult for pre-op clearance as it relates to this industrial injury; however, does state along with ODG, when a health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex in nature whereby additional expertise may analyze for causation, prognosis, degree of impairment, or work capacity clarification. It appears the patient has no clear internal medical symptoms as well as no clinical documentation was identified correlating to any internal medicine related diagnosis. Additionally, submitted reports have not adequately demonstrated evidence of prolonged use of medications to cause any internal organ concerns nor is there any medical treatment procedure or surgical plan delayed, hindering the recovery process of this industrial injury due to poorly controlled or treated internal medicine issues. The Pre-Op Medical Clearance is not medically necessary.