

Case Number:	CM14-0073049		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	09/24/2010
Decision Date:	12/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/20/2014

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 Internal Medicine, has a subspecialty in Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 patient is a 58 year-old with a date of injury of 09/24/10. A progress report on 03/17/14 noted the plan for a spinal cord stimulator and a request for preoperative clearance. A progress report associated with the request for services, dated 04/21/14, identified subjective complaints of occasional right-sided chest pain and palpitations. Objective findings included normal vital signs and examination. Diagnoses (paraphrased) included chest pain and palpitations. A Utilization Review determination was rendered on 04/30/14 recommending non-certification of "Lexiscan stress test".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lexiscan stress test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=37916>, The National Guideline Clearinghouse; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.gov/pubmed/24726335>

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: UpToDate: Evaluation of Cardiac Risk Prior to Non-cardiac Surgery

Decision rationale: Neither the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) nor the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) address cardiac nuclear stress testing. Authoritative sources note that risk stratification of preoperative patients with cardiac stress testing does not improve surgical outcomes with the exception of high-risk surgery such as vascular. In this case, the patient was not exhibiting acute signs or symptoms of cardiac disease and the planned surgery was very low risk. Therefore, the medical record does not document the medical necessity for a Lexiscan stress test.