

Case Number:	CM14-0078292		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	09/07/2013
Decision Date:	08/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/27/2014

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 American Board of Family Medicine, 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:

43 yr. old male claimant sustained a work injury on 9/7/13 involving the low back. He was diagnosed with lumbar degenerative disk disease and a herniated disc. He has no other mentioned chronic medical problems. He had undergone therapy, oral analgesics and Epidural Steroid injections. Due to continued pain, the treating physician recommended a facet joint injection and additional Epidural Steroid injections. The treating physician requested pre-operative labs prior to the procedure.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-Op Clearance Labs-CBC and UA: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines-TWC-Low Back-Lumbar & Thoracic (Acute & Chronic).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Non-MTUS Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) guidelines (2013): Pre-Op Labs CBC and UA Testing before Non-Cardiac Surgery.

Decision rationale: According to the AAFP guidelines, pre-operative lab testing for low risk non-cardiac patients in low risk surgeries without co-morbidities does not require routine lab testing. There is lack of evidence to support routine pre-operative labs in low risk surgeries. Lumbar injections are low risk procedures and routinely performed without labs. In addition, the labs were not specified. The request for pre-operative labs is not medically necessary.