

Case Number:	CM14-0083027		
Date Assigned:	07/21/2014	Date of Injury:	08/28/2003
Decision Date:	08/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/04/2014

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 General Surgeon 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 55 year old male has a history to include sleep apnea, obesity, dizziness, nosebleeds, shortness of breath, pressure in the chest, chronic low back pain, gout, headaches, hernia, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, pneumonia, and thyroid problems. He is on multiple medications. The patient has failed conservative management of a right shoulder problem. Surgery is imminent and clearance by the PCP, a pulmonologist, and a cardiologist has been requested. The pulmonologist and PCP clearance has been approved. Cardiology clearance has been denied.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Surgery clearance with a pulmonologist, cardiologist, and PTP: Overturned

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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 18th Edition, 2011, Preoperative Clearance Considerations "The utilization of preoperative clearance would be based upon significant underlying medical comorbidities.

Decision rationale: Considering the patient's age, his existing need and use of multiple medications, hyperlipidemia, sleep apnea on CPAP or Bi Pap, obesity, hypertension, and dizziness, as well as nosebleeds; a preop cardiac clearance is justified and medically necessary. These symptoms and co morbidities may well alter the choice of anesthesia as well as pre and postoperative planning. These same factors suggest the need for a cardiologist to be on board and familiar with the patient should any intra or postoperative complications occur. Such would add to the quality of care necessary to care for this patient.