

Case Number:	CM14-0086578		
Date Assigned:	09/08/2014	Date of Injury:	11/03/2013
Decision Date:	10/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/09/2014

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 22-year-old Female with an 11/3/13 date of injury. At the time (6/5/14) of the Decision for Retrospective request for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of the cervical spine for the service date of 4/11/2014, there is documentation of subjective (upper back pain) and objective (tenderness over the right trapezius muscles with spasms, decreased cervical spine range of motion, negative compression test, and negative Spurling's test) findings, current diagnoses (cervical spine sprain/strain and cervical spine myospasm), and treatment to date (medications, acupuncture, and physical therapy). There is no documentation of red flag diagnoses where plain film radiographs are negative; and physiologic evidence of tissue insult or neurologic dysfunction; or diagnosis of nerve root compromise, based on clear history and physical examination findings.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of the cervical spine for the service date of 4/11/2014: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 177-178.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 179-183.

Decision rationale: MTUS reference to ACOEM Guidelines identifies documentation of red flag diagnoses where plain film radiographs are negative, physiologic evidence (in the form of definitive neurologic findings on physical examination, electrodiagnostic studies, laboratory tests, or bone scans) of tissue insult or neurologic dysfunction, failure of conservative treatment; or diagnosis of nerve root compromise, based on clear history and physical examination findings, in preparation for invasive procedure; as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of an MRI. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical spine sprain/strain and cervical spine myospasm. In addition, there is documentation of failure of conservative treatment. However, there is no documentation of red flag diagnoses where plain film radiographs are negative. In addition, despite documentation of subjective (upper back pain) and objective (tenderness over the right trapezius muscles with spasms and decreased cervical spine range of motion) findings, there is no documentation of physiologic evidence of tissue insult or neurologic dysfunction, or diagnosis of nerve root compromise, based on clear history and physical examination findings. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Retrospective request for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of the cervical spine for the service date of 4/11/2014 is not medically necessary.