

Case Number:	CM14-0091864		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	05/29/2013
Decision Date:	10/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/17/2014

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 Surgery and is licensed 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 30 year old male was injured 5/29/13. He was diagnosed with abdominal and inguinal pain, and possible hernia. The patient is working modified duty. The request was for a CT scan to rule out hernia. The patient was seen by a general surgeon and identified as having a recurrent ventral hernia and a virginal right inguinal hernia. Apparently the CT scan had been ordered by another provider.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CT Scan of the abdomen and pelvis to check for hernia: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Hernia: Imaging

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Treatment Index, 9th Edition (web), Hernia (updated 3/19/13), Imaging.

Decision rationale: The use of a CT scan to diagnosis a hernia can be in the case of an obese individual with a suspected complex abdominal wall hernia. The most accurate diagnostic tool to rule out a hernia is an examination by a general surgeon; next would be an ultrasound examination. This hernia is not described as being complex. A surgeon, on examination, has identified it as a recurrent ventral hernia. He also has identified a right inguinal hernia. Per Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Treatment Index, 9th Edition (web), Imaging is "Not recommended except in unusual situations. Imaging techniques such as MRI, CT scan, and ultrasound are unnecessary except in unusual situations."

