

Case Number:	CM14-0163402		
Date Assigned:	10/27/2014	Date of Injury:	04/09/2012
Decision Date:	01/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/03/2014

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 Ophthalmology 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:

The patient is a 40 year old male with a date of injury of 4/9/2012. The provider is requesting authorization for 4 follow-up office visits, 8 fundus photos, 8 Optical coherence tomography (OCT), 8 fluorescein angiograms, 8 ophthalmoscopy, 8 B-scan U/S, 4 Intravit injections, and 4 Triamcinolone Acetonide. Per most recent encounter dated 8/19/2014, the patient complains of diminished vision and continued pain. Examination is significant for chorioretinal scar of the left eye with epiretinal membrane, with visual acuity of 20/50. The patient has a history of choroidal neovascular membrane, and has cystoid macular edema. The patient is treated with intravitreal triamcinolone injection on this date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prospective request for 4 follow-up office visits: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Optometric Association, 2005); Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Eye Chapter, Office Visits

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, office visits / follow-ups are indicated as determined medically necessary. After initial follow-up visit, further visits may be necessary as determined to be medically necessary based on the patient's condition and response to treatment. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 8 fundus photos: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Patterns Committee; American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2010; 23 p

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010 Saine PJ, Tyler ME. Ophthalmic Photography: Retinal Photography, Angiography, and Electronic Imaging. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann; 2002.

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 8 Optical coherence tomography (OCT): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG); American Optometric Association, 2010; 165 p

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10163457>; Curr Opin Ophthalmol. 1996 Jun;7(3):33-8. Macular disease and optical coherence tomography. Coker JG1, Duker JS

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 8 fluorescein angiograms: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Wippold FJ III, Cornelius RS, Berger KL, Broderick DF, Davis PC, Douglas AC, Germano IM, Hadley JA, McDermott MW, Mectler LL, Smirniotopoulos JG, Waxman AD, Expert Panel on Neurologic Imaging. ACR Appropriateness Criteria orbits, vision and visual loss. [online publication]. Reston (VA): American College of Radiology (ACR); 2012; 12p.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19338610>; Clin Experiment Ophthalmol. 2009 Jan;37(1):130-43. doi: 10.1111/j.1442-9071.2009.02017.x. Clinical use and research applications of Heidelberg retinal angiography and spectral-domain optical coherence tomography - a review. Hassenstein A1, Meyer CH.

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 8 ophthalmoscopy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2010. 23p

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24391370>; Oman J Ophthalmol. 2013 Sep;6(Suppl 1):S32-5. doi: 10.4103/0974-620X.122292. Imaging of the peripheral retina. Kernt M, Kampik A.

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 8 B-scan U/S: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2010; 23 p

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010; Byrne SF, Green RL. Ultrasound of the Eye and Orbit. 2nd ed. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby Year Book; 2002.

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 4 Triamcinolone Acetonide: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); 2013 Jan 52 p

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010; Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2012 Aug;13(12):1679-94. doi: 0.1517/14656566.2012.690736. Epub 2012 Jul 12.

Decision rationale: An initial treatment with intravitreal triamcinolone is indicated and considered medically necessary for the treatment of the patient's cystoid macular edema. Based on the initial response, further treatment may be requested if medically necessary as determined by the patient's condition. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Prospective request for 4 Intravit injections: Upheld

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 American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Patterns - Comprehensive Adult Medical Eye Evaluation - 2010 ;Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2012 Aug;13(12):1679-94. doi: 10.1517/14656566.2012.690736. Epub 2012 Jul 12. Intraocular corticosteroids for posterior segment disease: 2012 update. Kiernan DF1, Mieler WF.

Decision rationale: Per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, comprehensive adult eye evaluations include procedures when deemed medically necessary. One set of testing is indicated to evaluate the patient's eye condition; based on the results of this testing, repeating the diagnostic imaging may or may not be indicated in the future based on the patient's response to treatment and overall disease course. Usually, decision to perform additional testing is made on the subsequent follow-up visits. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.