

Case Number:	CM14-0187199		
Date Assigned:	11/17/2014	Date of Injury:	10/17/2012
Decision Date:	01/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/10/2014

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 Preventive 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 34-year-old female with a 10/17/12 date of injury. At the time (10/29/14) of the Decision for functional capacity evaluation, there is documentation of subjective (wrist pain) and objective (tenderness over the bilateral wrists) findings, current diagnoses (left carpal tunnel syndrome), and treatment to date (medications and extracorporeal shockwave therapy). Medical reports identify that the patient is on full duty; and approaching maximum medical improvement. There is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional capacity evaluation.: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Fitness for duty, Functional capacity evaluation.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, Independent Medical Examinations and

consultations, page(s) 127 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness For Duty, Functional capacity evaluation (FCE)

Decision rationale: MTUS reference to ACOEM guidelines identifies that functional capacity evaluations (FCE) may establish physical abilities and also facilitate the examinee/employer relationship for return to work. ODG identifies documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a functional capacity evaluation. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of left carpal tunnel syndrome. In addition, despite documentation that the patient is close to maximum medical improvement, and given documentation that the patient is on full duty, there is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Functional capacity evaluation is not medically necessary.