

Case Number:	CM14-0190966		
Date Assigned:	11/24/2014	Date of Injury:	04/10/1997
Decision Date:	01/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/17/2014

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 Family 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 4/10/1997. Patient was hit by a metal roller on a conveyor belt causing her to fall. She was diagnosed with degenerative joint disease and lumbar stenosis. X rays showed hardware at L4 5 and L5-S1 and interbody fusions, a solid L3 sacrum and early degeneration of L2-L3.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Limited Bone Scan of the Lumbar Spine and Pelvis: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Treatment in Workers Compensation, Online Edition Chapter: Hip & Pelvis (Acute & Chronic)

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 309. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Hip And Pelvis Bone Scan

Decision rationale: According to guidelines it states bone scans of the lower back may be needed if no improvement after 1 month or to detect bone infection, cancer or arthritis. For the pelvis guidelines state they are effective for detection of subtle osseous pathology. According to

medical records there is no documentation of why the extent of doing a bone scan is indicated and thus is not medically necessary.