

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0196919		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/04/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/08/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/25/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/04/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/24/2014

### 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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:  
 State(s) of Licensure: California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabn

### 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 59 year-old female with a 5/08/2013 date of injury. The chiropractic reports show a diagnoses of neck sprain; thoracic sprain and lumbar sprain. There is a 10/29/14 orthopedic report that shows additional diagnoses of right rotator cuff rupture and osteoarthritis in the left leg. The patient was scheduled for shoulder surgery in 11/03/14. There are handwritten dental treatment/chart notes for 10/9/14 and 1/29/14, but they are illegible, and not signed and do not have the required Workers Compensation declarations. The 5/29/14 chiropractic report states there is right-sided facial numbness and tinnitus. The 10/14/14 report notes intermittent jaw pain and states the patient had a follow-up TMJ evaluation with the dentist on 10/9/14. On 11/04/2014 utilization review denied x-ray interpretation of TMJ radiographs. The reviewer says there is no need for TMJ radiographs, so the interpretation of the radiographs is not necessary.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**X-ray interpretation for TMJ radiographs:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (Colorado, 2005) see also CT (computed tomography)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head chapter, for x-rays

**Decision rationale:** The dentist apparently had ordered radiographs of the TMJ, and apparently requested interpretation of the radiographs. The request for authorization form and corresponding medical/dental reports were not provided for review. MTUS/ACOEM did not discuss TMJ radiographs. ODG-TWC guidelines, Head chapter, for x-rays states x-rays are recommended if CT scans are not available. The article by Weinberg LA., in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. 1984 May; 51(5):676-85, Practical evaluation of the lateral temporomandibular joint radiograph discusses TMJ radiographs. The article suggests "the value of the lateral TMJ radiograph as an important practical aid in the diagnosis and treatment of TMJ dysfunction pain and in the establishment of functional centric relation in prosthodontics" The review article by Berret A, Dent Clin North Am. 1983 Jul; 27(3):527-40. Radiology of the temporomandibular joint. States: "When evaluating the current status of a patient with diseases of the TMJ, certain guidelines must be followed. It is of the utmost importance to take into consideration the total picture. This must include the history, physical examination, x-rays, films, and any other pertinent information. As stated previously, the TMJ is demonstrated with a great deal of clarity by modern tomographic x-ray techniques" The evidence-based literature appears to support x-rays for TMJ disorders. Interpretation of the x-rays is a necessary portion of the procedure in order for the x-rays to be useful in a clinical practice. The request for X-ray interpretation for TMJ radiographs is medically necessary.