

Case Number:	CM14-0198762		
Date Assigned:	12/08/2014	Date of Injury:	10/02/2013
Decision Date:	01/22/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/25/2014

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 Internal Medicine, has a subspecialty in Rheumatology and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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 58 year old female with date of injury 10/2/13. The mechanism of injury is not stated in the available medical records. The patient has complained of low back pain since the date of injury. She has been treated with physical therapy and medications. MRI of the sacroiliac joints dated 10/2014 revealed normal sacroiliac joints. MRI of the lumbar spine dated 10/2014 revealed degenerative disc disease at L4-5 and L5-S1. Objective: decreased and painful range of motion of the lumbar spine; decreased sensation in an L5 dermatomal distribution, positive straight leg raise test bilaterally. Diagnoses: lumbar spine disc disease, sciatica, lumbago. Treatment plan and request: right L5-S1 sacroiliac injection.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right L5-S1 sacroiliac injection: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Hip and Pelvis Chapter, Criteria for the use of Sacroiliac Blocks

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Low back complaints Page(s): 300.

Decision rationale: Per the California MTUS citation listed above, invasive techniques in the treatment of back pain, to include local injections of lidocaine, steroid or both are of questionable benefit and offer no significant long term functional benefit. On the basis of the MTUS guidelines, right L5-S1 sacroiliac injection is not indicated as medically necessary.