

Case Number:	CM14-0204566		
Date Assigned:	12/17/2014	Date of Injury:	08/20/2012
Decision Date:	02/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/08/2014

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 Emergency Medicine, has a subspecialty in ENTER SUBSPECIALTY 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 injured worker is a 49 year-old male, who sustained an injury on August 20, 2012. The mechanism of injury is not noted. Diagnostics have included: Right elbow MRI dated October 30, 2013 reported as showing partial tear common extensor tendon. Treatments have included: medications, physical therapy, acupuncture, cortisone injection, splinting. The current diagnoses are: right lateral epicondylitis, lumbar sprain. The stated purpose of the request for Pre-Op Clearance Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP), Electrocardiography (EKG) was for clearance for PRP injections. The request for Pre-Op Clearance Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP), Electrocardiography (EKG) was denied on November 25, 2015, citing a lack of documentation of medical necessity for pre-op clearance for PRP injections. Per the report dated October 23, 2014, the treating physician noted complaints of right elbow pain. Exam showed right extensor carpi radialis brevis tenderness with increased pain upon right wrist dorsiflexion and is recommending PRP injections.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-Op Clearance Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP), Electrocardiography (EKG): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) Preoperative Evaluation

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: The requested Pre-Op Clearance Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP), Electrocardiography (EKG), is not medically necessary. The CA MTUS and ODG are silent on this issue, and
<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>, recommends pre-op clearance for "Patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than age 40 and females if greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. b. Patients having major neurosurgical, abdominal, orthopedic, thoracic, cardiac, or vascular surgery usually require an ECG, CXR, lytes, bun, creatinine, LFT's, and PT/PTT. Refer to the preoperative form for lab testing indications for less major procedures." The injured worker has right elbow pain. The treating physician has documented right extensor carpi radialis brevis tenderness with increased pain upon right wrist dorsiflexion and is recommending PRP injections. The treating physician has not documented the medical necessity for pre-op clearance for this non-surgical injection. The criteria noted above not having been met, Pre-Op Clearance Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP), Electrocardiography (EKG) is not medically necessary.