MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0140102		
Date Assigned:	07/29/2015	Date of Injury:	08/13/2013
Decision Date:	08/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/30/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/20/2015

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, Indiana, New York
Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine

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 73-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on August 13, 2013 resulting in back, shoulder, and neck pain. Additionally, he is diagnosed with diabetes mellitus and hypertension for which he has been treated with medication. The injured worker has presented with high blood pressure readings, and the treating physician's plan of care includes plethysmography. Work status not provided.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Plethysmography: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3613546 - J Biomed Eng. 1987 Jul; 9(3): 222-31. Measurement of cardiac output by electrical impedance plethysmography.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003771.htm.

Decision rationale: Pursuant to Medline plus, Plethysmography is not medically necessary. Plethysmography is used to measure changes in volume in different parts of the body. This can help check blood. The test may be done to check for blood clots in the arms and legs, or to measure how much air you can hold in your lungs. In this case, the injured worker's working diagnoses are hypertension and diabetes (both predate the date of injury). The date of injury is August 13, 2013. The request for authorization was June 24, 2015. There is a single progress note dated June 17, 2015 by the internal medicine treating provider. Subjectively, injured worker complains of back, neck, shoulder pain with numbness in the hands and feet. Objectively, what pressures are 194/108 on the left and 211/112 on the right. The documentation indicates the physical examination is "within normal limits". There is no clinical indication or rationale treatment plan for plethysmography. Consequently, absent clinical documentation with a clinical indication/rationale for plethysmography and a normal physical examination, Plethysmography is not medically necessary.