

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0140532		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/03/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/28/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/09/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/30/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/21/2015

### 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: Illinois

Certification(s)/Specialty: Ophthalmology

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 29 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 6-28-14. He subsequently reported neck and right shoulder pain. Diagnoses include traumatic brain injury. Treatments to date x-ray and MRI testing, physical therapy and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience neck pain with a popping sensation with movement and numbness over the right scapula as well as complaints of dizziness. Upon examination, there was numbness over the left upper scapula. A request for Visual field exam, extended and computerized ophthalmic imaging nerve times two visits was made by the treating physician.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Visual field exam, extended and computerizes ophthalmic imaging nerve times two visits:**

Overtured

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Pattern.

**Decision rationale:** This is a patient with TBI who has visual complaints. His exam shows changes in the optic nerves that may be related to the trauma but also could represent glaucoma. The standard medical tests for evaluating optic nerve function include both visual field testing and optic nerve OCT. In the case of this patient, due to the complexity of the case and the inconclusive test results at the first visit, the etiology of these optic nerve changes could not be sorted out with the onetime examination and therefore performing a repeat visual field exam and OCT 6 months later is medically appropriate and necessary. Therefore performing a visual field and OCT twice (once at baseline and one 6 months later) is medically necessary.