MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0148210		
Date Assigned:	08/13/2015	Date of Injury:	06/07/2014
Decision Date:	09/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/30/2015

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: Tennessee, Florida, Ohio
Certification(s)/Specialty: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

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 (IW) is a 43-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 06-07-2014. Diagnoses include status post IR drainage of anterior abdominal wall seroma (2-19-15) following ventral wall hernia repair with lysis of adhesions, B component separation and mesh placement (1-28-15). He was seen in the trauma clinic on 3-10-2015 for some wound dehiscence. Treatment to date has included medications, surgery, IV antibiotics and wound care. According to the progress notes dated 5-26-2015, the IW reported burning pain in the right mid-abdomen rated 8 out of 10 that began approximately one week before this visit. He received pain medication from his primary physician. His wife was changing his packing and dressing twice daily. On examination, the abdomen was soft, distended and mildly tender on palpation to the right of the abdominal wounds. There was a 1 cm mass in the right mid-abdomen. The superior, middle and inferior abdominal wounds had good granulation tissue and were healing well with no evidence of infection. The dressing was clean, dry and intact with minimal serosanguinous fluid. A letter dated 5-26-2015 from the requesting provider stated the IW's wounds were still open and would need packed twice daily for at least two months. A request was made for one box of Kling rolls, use as directed, refills 2; one box of ABD pads, use as directed, refills 2; one bottle of one-quarter inch iodoform packing strips, use as directed; one box of fluffs, use as directed, refills 2; 2) Conform Gauze, #28, needs 2 balls/day for dressing; 2 boxes of medical gloves; Q-Tips box of 24, refills 2, use as directed; and one-half inch packing strips, #10, 1 bottle per day for dressing, use as directed.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One box of ABD pads with two refills, use as directed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for one box of ABD pads with two refills is not-medically necessary.

One fluffs box with two refills, use as directed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for one fluffs box with two refills is not-medically necessary.

One box of kling rolls with two refills, use as directed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for one box of kling rolls with two refills is not-medically necessary.

One bottle of 1/4 inch iodoform packing strips: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for one bottle of 1/4 inch iodoform packing strips is not-medically necessary.

Two boxes of medical gloves: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for two boxes of medical globes is not-medically necessary.

Box of Q-tips, quantity 24 with two refills, use as directed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment) ". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for a box of Q-tips, quantity 24 with two refills is not-medically necessary.

Conform gauze, quantity of 28 needs two balls per day for dressing: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open

soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for conform gauze, quantity of 28 with use of 2 balls per day is not-medically necessary.

1/2 inch packing strips, quantity of 10, 1 bottle per day for dressing, use as directed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of specific wound dressings for this patient. Per MTUS guidelines, "using wound coverings such as bandages, Band-Aids, gauze pads, etc. or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips (other wound-closing devices such as sutures, staples, etc. are considered medical treatment)". To justify treatment, providers must document the extent, type and size of wounds which are to be prescribed covering/packing. The records do support that this patient has an open soft tissue wound after laparotomy for jejunal and colonic resections. However, a description of the character and content of the wound is not provided. Serial size measurements documenting progression of closure and current dimensions are also not documented in the clinical records provided. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for 1/2 inch packing strips, quantity of 10, 1 bottle per day for dressing is not-medically necessary.