

Case Number:	CM15-0169136		
Date Assigned:	09/17/2015	Date of Injury:	11/08/2012
Decision Date:	10/21/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/28/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/27/2015

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 is a 42 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 11-08-2012. Diagnoses include dermatomyositis. Treatment to date has included medications including chronic steroid use (since 2012, currently Methylprednisolone), Plaquenil, IVIG, Methotrexate and Cellcept. Per the Rheumatology Follow-Up Report dated 6-25-2015, the injured worker presented for management of dermatomyositis. She reported that the most recent IVIG (5-11-2015-5-15-2015) had worsened her muscle spasms. IVIG is currently on hold. Objective findings diffuse erythema with scaling on the face, anterior and posterior trunk, arms, and legs positive coalescing Gottron's plaques, V sign and heliotrope rash. Per the medical records dated 6-25-2015 her skin biopsy is consistent with dermatomyositis but the finding of dermal eosinophils has (skin biopsy 6-03-2015) raised concern regarding a superimposed drug reaction. On 7-28-2015, Utilization Review non-certified the request for lab work (complement, blood smear interpretation, virus antibody, immunoglobulin M, flow cytometry, IgG 1, 2, 3, or 4 each, Gamma globulin, Helminth antibody, fluorescent antibody screen, comprehensive review of data, NK cells total count, T cells total count, T cells absolute count) citing lack of medical necessity for allergy testing.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lab work, unknown code: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

Decision rationale: There is not sufficient clinical information provided to justify the medical necessity of this test for this patient. The California MTUS guidelines, Occupational Disability Guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address this topic. The Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters was formed in 1989 and is comprised of members from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Current society guidelines propose that allergy testing is appropriate when "Prick/puncture tests are used to confirm clinical sensitivity induced by aeroallergens, foods, some drugs, and a few chemicals." Testing should not be used for broad panel allergens unless the patient has had a prior episode of anaphylaxis to an unknown substance. This patient has a mild to moderate serum eosinophilia with a left arm biopsy completed to assess for complicating features dermatomyositis. Biopsy results were consistent with dermatomyositis with possible drug rash. The patient has never had an episode of anaphylaxis. Additional allergy lab tests were ordered without clearly documented signs, symptoms or indication. Furthermore, lab work should not be performed in broad panels. The lab test requested in this case was for an unknown test. When ordering, tests must be specified as to the type and frequency of study to be performed. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for lab work of an unknown type is not medically necessary.

Lab work: Complement, total: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Testing should not be used for broad panel allergens unless the patient has had a prior episode of anaphylaxis to an unknown substance. This patient has a mild to moderate serum eosinophila with a left arm biopsy completed to assess for complicating features dermatomyositis. Biopsy results were consistent with dermatomyositis with possible drug rash. The patient has never had an episode of anaphylaxis. Additional allergy lab tests were ordered without clearly documented signs, symptoms or indication. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for total complement testing is not medically necessary.

Lab work: Blood smear interpretation: Upheld

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

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Lab work: Virus antibody, NOS: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Immunoglobulin M: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Flowcytometry/ tc, 1 marker: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Lgg 1, 2, 3 or 4, each Gammaglobulin: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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signs, symptoms or indication. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request for Igg 1, 2, 3, 4, each gammaglobulin testing is not medically necessary.

Lab work: Helminth antibody: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Fluorescent antibody screen: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Comprehensive review of data: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: NK cells, total count Natural Killer (NK) cells: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: T cells, total count: Upheld

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

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Lab work: T cell, absolute count/ratio: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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Lab work: Unknown code (828185): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Allergy diagnostic testing: an updated practice parameter (2008), Joint Task Force (JTF) on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Joint Council on Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, <http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20and%20Parameters/allergydiagnostictesting.pdf>.

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