

Case Number:	CM15-0203792		
Date Assigned:	10/20/2015	Date of Injury:	10/23/2006
Decision Date:	12/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/23/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/16/2015

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

Certification(s)/Specialty: Dentist

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 59 year old male with an industrial injury date of 10-23-2006. Medical record review indicates he is being treated for acquired absence of teeth. The treatment note dated 04-30-2015 noted the injured worker fell into a hole and a jackhammer fell on him hitting his lower jaw and fracturing the incisal edge of tooth # 25. "The objective clinical examination revealed missing lower partial denture, unstable upper partial denture and broken incisor." Other findings noted included existing fillings on teeth # 21, 22, 23,25,26,27 and 29 were breaking off. In the 07-01-2015 note the treating physician noted teeth # 19 and 30 supported by implant "will be only a final treatment option since implants will work as a bone stabilizer which will preserve the volume of jaw bone for a long period." "Without the bone stabilizer resorption of jaw bone will be continued and this resorption process will result in decreasing vertical dentition occlusion repeatedly. Therefore I strongly recommend # 19, 30 implants instead of partial lower denture." In the 03-26-2015 treatment note the provider recommended extracting teeth # 6 and 11 with bone grafting, placing implants # 2,4,6,11, 13 and 15 and an implant supported over denture. In the 08-14-2015 note the treating physician documented the original plan of maxillary partial denture supported by # 6 and # 11 was no longer an option due to the loss of abutment teeth # 6 and # 11. "Without optimal retention of maxillary denture, degree of chewing efficiency will be greatly reduced." "Over denture supported by endosseous implants will be an only option to restore functionality of medullary dentition." "Endosseous implants will not only provide retention of the complete denture but also stabilizes the maxillary bone to prevent further atrophy of the bone in the future." Prior treatments included TENS and prior dental procedures. On 09-23-2015 the request for bone graft to maxilla, reconstruction 4-6 stabilizers, prosthesis for teeth was non-certified by utilization review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bone graft to maxilla, reconstruction 4-6 stabilizers, prosthesis for teeth: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Head chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head Chapter.

Decision rationale: QME report of [REDACTED] dated 06/10/14 has diagnosed this patient with secondary trauma of bruxism due to pain, stress and medication resulting from the primary injury. Further records reviewed indicate that patient is suffering from advanced bone atrophy due to lack of function and without optimal retention of maxillary denture, degree of chewing efficiency will be greatly reduced. Treating dentist is recommending Bone graft to maxilla, reconstruction 4-6 stabilizers, prosthesis for teeth. Per reference mentioned above, "Dental implants, dentures, crowns, bridges, onlays, inlays, braces, pulling impacted teeth, or repositioning impacted teeth, would be options to promptly repair injury to sound natural teeth required as a result of, and directly related to, an accidental injury". Therefore based on the records reviewed, along with the findings and reference mentioned above, as well as methods used in Dentistry, this reviewer finds this request for Bone graft to maxilla, reconstruction 4-6 stabilizers, prosthesis for teeth to be medically necessary to properly treat this patient's dental condition.