

Case Number:	CM15-0207410		
Date Assigned:	10/26/2015	Date of Injury:	12/23/2002
Decision Date:	12/14/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/21/2015

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: Texas, New York, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] beneficiary who has filed a claim for neck pain, hand pain, back pain, and obesity reportedly associated with an industrial injury of December 23, 2002. In a Utilization Review report dated September 30, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for a liposuction with associated reconstruction of the upper body. A September 14, 2015 date of service was referenced in the determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On an RFA form dated September 14, 2015, liposuction and reconstruction of upper body were sought. The stated diagnosis on the RFA form was status post gastric bypass. On an associated progress note of September 14, 2015, the applicant reported ongoing issues of hypertension and diabetes, it was acknowledged. The applicant's most recent hemoglobin A1c was 6.5, it was reported. The applicant had loose skin present about the abdominal region going all the way down to the pubic and inguinal areas, it was reported. The applicant was asked to undergo a liposuction and reconstruction of the upper body to ameliorate issues with loosened skin. The applicant was asked to continue metformin, Cozaar, Aldactone, Savella, and Lyrica. The applicant's weight was 198 pounds, it was reported. The applicant's height and BMI were not, however, stated. The applicant's blood pressure was well controlled at 106/72.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Liposuction and reconstruction of upper body Qty: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Alien Gabriel, MD, FACS; Chief Editor; Deepak Narayan, MD FRCS 8/2/13.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1272958-overview#a2>, Large Volume Liposuction Safety and Indications Author: Allen Gabriel, MD, FACS; Chief Editor: Jorge I de la Torre, MD, FACS.

Decision rationale: No, the request for a liposuction and reconstruction of the upper body was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. The MTUS not address the topic. However, Medscape Large-Volume Liposuction Safety and Indications article notes that careful applicant selection is "extremely critical" prior to performance of a large-volume liposuction, as was seemingly present here. Medscape notes that preoperative patient evaluation should include a thorough history and physical examination. Here, however, the attending provider's September 14, 2015 office visit did not clearly outline all of the applicant's medical problems. Medscape notes that candidates for large-volume liposuction should be in a healthy state both physically and mentally and that an applicant's weight should be stable or decreasing with diet and exercise. Medscape notes that applicants with eating disorders or body dysmorphic disorders are not good candidates for a large-volume liposuction procedure and further notes that failure to detect underlying cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, hepatic, and/or thyroid disease can lead to fatal complications. Here, there is no mention of whether or not the applicant carried a diagnosis of sleep apnea or not. The attending provider did not seemingly exclude the presence of underlying psychopathology. The attending provider did not state whether or not the applicant's issues with superimposed fibromyalgia were or were not well controlled. The applicant's pattern and history of weight gain and/or weight loss were not discussed. The careful preoperative patient evaluation with Medscape suggested prior to pursuit of a large-volume liposuction procedure did not, in short, transpire here. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.