

Case Number:	CM15-0208237		
Date Assigned:	10/27/2015	Date of Injury:	11/11/2011
Decision Date:	12/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/22/2015

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 58 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 11-11-11. The injured worker reported tooth pain. A review of the medical records indicates that the injured worker is undergoing treatments for an infection of tooth. Medical records dated 7-8-15 indicate "severe pain upon palpation of the buccal vestibles." Treatment has included Gabapentin since at last July of 2015, and amoxicillin. Objective findings dated 7-8-15 were notable for heavily decayed teeth, "crowns have fractured the roots at gum level." The original utilization review (9-22-15) denied a request for Extraction of all teeth, One (1) full set of dentures and One (1) dental x-rays.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Extraction of all teeth: Overturned

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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head Chapter and Other Medical Treatment Guidelines Medscape Reference: Tooth Extraction. Author: Talib Najjar, DMD, MDS, PhD; Chief Editor: Arlen D Meyers, MD, MBA.

Decision rationale: Records reviewed indicate that patient reported tooth pain the injured worker is undergoing treatments for an infection of tooth. Records indicate "severe pain upon palpation of the buccal vestibles." Objective findings were notable for heavily decayed teeth, "crowns have fractured. The roots at gum level." Other records indicate patient has significant tooth decay causing pain. Provider is requesting extractions of the teeth that have been found to be unsalvageable. Per reference mentioned above, "all efforts to avoid tooth extraction must be exhausted before the decision is made to proceed with removal of a tooth. Nevertheless, there are circumstances in which it is clear that a tooth must be extracted, such as the following: A tooth that cannot be restored, because of severe caries." 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 to be medically necessary to properly treat this patient's dental condition and prevent further decay and infection.

One (1) full set of dentures: Overturned

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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head Chapter.

Decision rationale: Records reviewed indicate that patient reported tooth pain the injured worker is undergoing treatments for an infection of tooth. Records indicate "severe pain upon palpation of the buccal vestibles." Objective findings were notable for heavily decayed teeth, "crowns have fractured the roots at gum level." Other records indicate patient has significant tooth decay causing pain. Provider is requesting extractions of the teeth that have been found to be unsalvageable and replacement with dentures. Per reference mentioned above, "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 One (1) full set of dentures to be medically necessary to properly treat this patient's dental condition and restore her chewing ability.

One (1) dental x-rays: Overturned

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 Medscape reference: Dental Abscess Workup. Author: Jane M Gould, MD, FAAP; Chief Editor: Russell W Steele, MD, Dentomaxillofac Radiol. 1996 Jan; 25 (1): 5-16. The use of bitewing radiographs in the management of dental caries: scientific and practical considerations. Pitts NB1.

Decision rationale: Records reviewed indicate that patient reported tooth pain the injured worker is undergoing treatments for an infection of tooth. Records indicate "severe pain upon palpation of the buccal vestibles." Objective findings were notable for heavily decayed teeth, "crowns have fractured the roots at gum level." Other records indicate patient has significant tooth decay causing pain. Treating dentist is recommending one dental x-ray. Per medical

references mentioned above, "Periapical radiography is the first level of investigation. It provides a localized view of the tooth and its supporting structures. Widening of the periodontal ligament space or a poorly defined radiolucency may be noted (if there is any dental infection)" (Gould, Medscape Reference). Based on the medical reference mentioned and the records reviewed/summarized above, this reviewer finds this request for One (1) dental x-rays to be medically necessary to better evaluate and diagnose this patient's dental condition.