

Case Number:	CM15-0028789		
Date Assigned:	02/20/2015	Date of Injury:	03/01/2014
Decision Date:	04/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/20/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/17/2015

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: Florida

Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Pain Management

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 60 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 3/1/2014. The current diagnoses are head trauma, post-traumatic head syndrome, post-traumatic chronic daily headaches, post-traumatic intermittent tinnitus, sleep disorder, depression, and cervical pain. Currently, the injured worker complains of daily headaches. They tend to be global, but primarily around the temples and frontal areas. She notes at times she feels nauseated. In addition to that, she has blurred vision, short-term memory loss, and a sense of imbalance or dizziness. The physical examination is unremarkable. Treatment to date has included medications and physical therapy. The treating physician is requesting Digital QEEG (quantitative electroencephalograph) and EEG (electroencephalography), which is now under review. On 1/20/2015, Utilization Review had non-certified a request for Digital QEEG (quantitative electroencephalograph) and EEG (electroencephalography). The Official Disability Guidelines were cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Digital QEEG (quantitative electroencephalography): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation official disability guidelines- head, QEEG.

Decision rationale: QEEG is not supported under ODG for diagnosis of traumatic brain injury. ODG reports it is not recommended for diagnosing traumatic brain injury (TBI). Quantified Electroencephalography (QEEG) (Computerized EEG) is a modification of standard EEG using computerized analysis of statistical relationships between power, frequency, timing, and distribution of scalp recorded brain electrical activity. In moderate/severe TBI the results of QEEG are almost always redundant when traditional electroencephalographic, neurologic and radiologic evaluations have been obtained. There are no findings of mitigating circumstances in support of use of QEEG.

EEG (electroencephalography): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation official disability guidelines- head, EEG.

Decision rationale: The medical records provided for review do not indicate signs or symptoms in suspicion of a seizure disorder. There is no documented physical examination or description of stereotypical events consistent with seizure. There is no indication of brain injury supported by objective study. EEG is not supported by the AAN for evaluation of concussion. As such, EEG is not supported by the medical records for assessment or stabilization of the insured.