

Case Number:	CM15-0028851		
Date Assigned:	02/20/2015	Date of Injury:	09/27/2000
Decision Date:	04/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/02/2015
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: California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 69 year old male janitor with an industrial injury dated September 27, 2000 at which time he fell from a ladder 10 feet high. He fell on his right side. He underwent bladder injury as a result of injury to his bladder. The injured worker diagnoses include lumbago, lumbosacral spondylosis, spinal stenosis lumbar at L4-5 and L5-S1, joint pain hip, lumbosacral neuritis, and myalgia and myositis. He has been treated with diagnostic studies, radiographic imaging, prescribed medications, physical therapy, chiropractic treatment, surgical treatment for bladder repair and periodic follow up visits. According to the progress note dated 1/22/2015, the injured worker reported pain in the lower back and lower extremities. He complained of increased right hip pain. Physical exam revealed decreased right hip rotation and adduction due to pain and right hip joint tenderness. Lumbosacral spine revealed mild decrease in lumbar spine with flexion due to pain, moderate tenderness of lumbosacral spine and paraspinals with paralumbar muscle tightness. Myofascial test revealed trigger points with taut bands in the right gluteus medius and piriformis area. Documentation also noted decreased sensory throughout right lower extremity. The treating physician prescribed MRI of the right hip. Utilization Review determination on February 2, 2015 denied the request for MRI of the right hip, citing MTUS, ACOEM and Official Disability Guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI right hip: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Hip and Pelvis chapter.

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

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, hip MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is the most accepted form of imaging for finding avascular necrosis of the hip and osteonecrosis. MRI is both highly sensitive and specific for the detection of many abnormalities involving the hip or surrounding soft tissues and should in general be the first imaging technique employed following plain films. Indications for imaging Magnetic resonance imaging include Osseous, articular or soft-tissue abnormalities; Osteonecrosis; Occult acute and stress fracture; Acute and chronic soft-tissue injuries; Tumors. In this case, the injured worker is noted to be a 69 year old who fell from a height of 10 feet on his right side. He has undergone conservative management and has presented with increased right hip pain. Examination has revealed limited range of motion and tenderness. At this juncture, soft tissue injury is suspected and the request for magnetic resonance imaging is supported. Therefore, the request for MRI right hip is medically necessary.