

Case Number:	CM15-0218210		
Date Assigned:	11/10/2015	Date of Injury:	05/08/2014
Decision Date:	12/29/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/29/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/05/2015

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: Iowa, Illinois, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive 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 injured worker is a female, who sustained an industrial injury on 5-8-2014. The injured worker is undergoing treatment for: neurocognitive disorder, post-concussion, behavior disturbance, adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood, iliac crest contusion, headaches, TMJ syndrome, left knee osteoarthritis, left side hearing loss and right knee pain. On 10-15-15, she is reported as having been attending brain day treatment. She reported pain to the knee, headaches, memory loss, and jaw pain. Objective findings revealed "9-20-15: physician recommended continuing brain day treatment program, and sleep study and prescribed trazodone". The provider noted under treatment plan that another provider had determined she had reached maximum medical improvement including the brain day treatment program. On 10-26-15, the provider recommended 5 sessions of psychotherapy to address disability, adjustment issues, and associated stress. The treatment and diagnostic testing to date has included: TMJ splint, at least 15 sessions of day treatment brain injury program, audiogram (10-6-15), occupational and speech therapy. Medications have included: trazodone. Current work status: not working. The request for authorization is for: day treatment brain injury program, additional 12 sessions (has completed 15). The UR dated 10-29-2015: modified certification of 6 additional sessions of day treatment brain injury program.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Day treatment brain injury program, 12 sessions: 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-TWC), Head Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.uptodate.com>, Uptodate, Severe traumatic brain injury, <http://archive.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcsums/tbisumm.htm>.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ACOEM are silent concerning daytime brain injury programs. Uptodate severe traumatic brain injury recommendations were consulted. Uptodate summary and recommendations - Patients with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) are most optimally managed in a specialized neurotrauma center with neurosurgical and neurocritical care support and the use of guidelines-based standardized protocols.<http://archive.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcsums/tbisumm.htm>. The patient has a complex traumatic brain injury that will require long term care. AHRQ states the average length of stay for a TBI was 61 days. Based on the medical documentation provided the number of outpatient therapy days would be appropriate. As such the request for day treatment brain injury program, 12 sessions is medically necessary.