

Case Number:	CM15-0034864		
Date Assigned:	03/04/2015	Date of Injury:	12/14/2013
Decision Date:	04/14/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/24/2015

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: Orthopedic Surgery

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 34 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/14/13. She has reported right wrist injury. The diagnoses have included carpal tunnel syndrome. Treatment to date has included right wrist arthroscopy with debridement, synovectomy and chondroplasty, physical therapy, splint, medications and activity modifications. (EMG) Electromyogram dated 10/21/14 revealed moderate carpal tunnel syndrome. Currently, the injured worker complains of right wrist pain with tingling and numbness in right hand. On exam dated 1/5/15, slight two-point discrimination sensory loss was noted, diminishing grip strength and wrist range of motion was normal. On 2/17/15 Utilization Review non-certified Pre-op clearance history and physical, noting it is not medically necessary in a 34 year old; EKG, noting patients undergoing low-risk surgery do not require EKG and lab work, noting it is not indicated for a 34 year old. The ODG was cited. On 2/24/15, the injured worker submitted an application for IMR for review of Pre-op clearance history and physical to include EKG and lab work.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Preoperative H & P (History & Physical): Upheld

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
<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and ODG are silent on the issue of preoperative clearance. Alternative guidelines were therefore referenced. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>. States that patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than 40 and female is greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. In this case the claimant is 34 years old and does not have any evidence in the cited records from 01/05/15 of significant medical comorbidities to support a need for preoperative clearance. Therefore, determination is for non-certification.

Preoperative EKG: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, chapter low back preoperative lab testing and general preoperative testing.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and ODG are silent on the issue of preoperative clearance. Alternative guidelines were therefore referenced. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>. States that patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than 40 and female is greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. In this case the claimant is 34 years old and does not have any evidence in the cited records from 01/05/15 of significant medical comorbidities to support a need for preoperative EKG. Therefore, determination is for non-certification.

Preoperative lab work: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, chapter low back preoperative lab testing and general preoperative testing.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: .CA MTUS and ODG are silent on the issue of preoperative clearance. Alternative guidelines were therefore referenced.<http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> States that patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males

require an ECG if greater than 40 and female is greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. In this case the claimant is 34 years old and does not have any evidence in the cited records from 01/05/15 of significant medical comorbidities to support a need for preoperative lab work. Therefore, determination is for non-certification.