

Case Number:	CM15-0042666		
Date Assigned:	03/09/2015	Date of Injury:	06/03/2013
Decision Date:	04/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/21/2015

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: North Carolina, Georgia
 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 43-year-old female who sustained an industrial injury on 06/03/2013. Current diagnoses include headaches, status post blunt head trauma, sprain of ligaments of cervical spine rule out disc displacement, radiculopathy cervical, unspecified sprain of shoulder joint bilateral, rule out impingement syndrome of bilateral shoulders, lateral epicondylitis bilateral elbows, unspecified sprain of wrist bilateral, wrist internal derangement, rule out carpal tunnel syndrome bilateral upper limb, sprain of unspecified ligament of ankle bilateral, rule out joint derangements of bilateral ankles, and tarsal tunnel syndrome right lower limb. Previous treatments included medication management, and physical therapy. Current diagnostic studies included x-ray of the cervical spine, MRI of the right elbow x2, left wrist, right ankle x2, left ankle, right wrist, left elbow, left shoulder, right shoulder, and cervical spine. Initial complaints occurred when a stack of heavy cardboard boxes fell from a pallet approximately eight feet high striking her in the head, left shoulder, right elbow, left elbow, right wrist, left wrist, and left ankle. Report dated 12/09/2014 noted that the injured worker presented with complaints that included headaches, neck pain and muscle spasms, bilateral shoulder pain, bilateral elbow pain and muscle spasms, bilateral wrist pain and muscle spasms, right ankle pain and muscle spasms, and the feelings of anxiousness, stress, and depression. Physical examination was positive for abnormal findings. The treatment plan included pending EMG/NCV study, continue with acupuncture and course of shockwave therapy, pending psychologist evaluation, pending neurologist evaluation, Terocine patches, continue taking medications for pain, and physical therapy. Treatment in dispute is a request for a cervical spine MRI.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI - cervical spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 177-179.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 182.

Decision rationale: ACOEM chapter on neck complaints describes that MRI is indicated when there are unequivocal objective findings of specific nerve compromise in a person with symptoms who do not respond to treatment and for whom surgery would be a reasonable intervention. In this case a cervical MRI was performed on 10/19/2014 which was normal except for small desiccation of a single disc. There was no nerve root entrapment or significant disc disease. There is no documentation to suggest that symptoms have progressed or changed since this very recent MRI and a new cervical MRI is not medically indicated.