

Case Number:	CM15-0045292		
Date Assigned:	03/17/2015	Date of Injury:	12/04/2014
Decision Date:	04/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/02/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/10/2015

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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 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 38 year old male with an industrial injury dated December 4, 2014. The injured worker diagnoses include exposure to tuberculosis, shortness of breath and chest pain. There is a history of a positive TB test. Treatment consisted of prescribed medications and a follow up visit. In a progress note dated 2/11/2015, the injured worker reports unchanged shortness of breath and chest pain. Physical exam revealed clear lungs and a regular heart rate and rhythm. The treating physician prescribed services for PPD (purified protein derivative) skin test now under review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PPD skin test: 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.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003839.htm>.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for PPD skin test, CA MTUS and ODG do not address the issue. The National Library of Medicine notes that the PPD skin test is a method used to diagnose silent (latent) tuberculosis (TB) infection. Within the documentation available for review, the patient is noted to have a recent positive TB test and there is no rationale for performing another TB test or how the result will potentially change the treatment plan given that the patient is already known to have TB. In the absence of clarity regarding the above issues, the currently requested PPD skin test is not medically necessary.