

Case Number:	CM15-0047492		
Date Assigned:	03/19/2015	Date of Injury:	02/15/2013
Decision Date:	07/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/18/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/12/2015

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: Pennsylvania

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Hospice & Palliative 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 35-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 2/15/2013. He reported right foot pain after a barrier landed on his right foot. The injured worker was diagnosed as having causalgia of lower limb, foot pain, and lower leg joint pain. Treatment to date has included medications, surgery, physical therapy, sympathetic block, and orthotics. The request is for BUN, Creatinine and Hepatic function panel tests. On 9/9/2014, he complained of right foot, low back and hip pain. He reported having physical therapy prior to surgery, and then having a sympathetic block, which he indicated did not provide relief. On 10/15/2015, he reported continued right foot and right toe pain. He rated his pain as 5/10 with medications and 9/10 without medications. On 11/12/2014, he complained of right toe and foot pain rated 6/10 with medications and 9/10 without medications. He reported increasing his Norco intake due to pain related to weather changes. On 12/10/2014, he had continued right foot pain rated 6/10 with medications and 7/10 without medications. He stated his sleep quality is fair and was currently not doing other therapies for pain relief. He reported no medication side effects. On 1/7/2015, he complained of right foot and right toe pain rated 6/10 with medications. On 2/4/2015, he rated the continued pain 5/10. Physical examination revealed elevated blood pressure, sensation decreased over the lateral right foot, and non-pitting edema is noted. The treatment plan included: Norco, Methoderm, lidocaine ointment, and blood work to rule out potential end organ damage.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

BUN (blood urea nitrogen), Creatinine and Hepatic Function panel: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, specific drug list & adverse effects Page(s): 70.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Chemistry panels, <http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/chem-panel/tab/glance>, Accessed 06/27/2015.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue in this clinical situation. The blood urea nitrogen (BUN) is a nonspecific blood test that can be related to kidney function, liver function, and several other conditions. The creatinine (Cr) is generally a marker of kidney function and sometimes of the amount of fluid in the body. A liver (hepatic) function panel is a group of blood tests that can reflect liver function and several other conditions and related problems in the body. The submitted and reviewed documentation indicated the worker was experiencing problems sleeping, right foot and ankle pain, knee pain, and back pain. The worker had diabetes, among other conditions. The worker was taking medications that require occasional monitoring to maintain safety. For these reasons, the current request for blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine (Cr), and hepatic function panel blood testing is medically necessary.