

Case Number:	CM15-0048126		
Date Assigned:	04/09/2015	Date of Injury:	10/27/1997
Decision Date:	05/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/23/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/13/2015

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: Dentist

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 58 year old, who sustained an industrial injury on 10/27/1997. The injured worker's diagnosis was not noted. Treatment to date has included diagnostics, medications, and use of a mouth guard appliance. An Agreed Medical Evaluation report, dated 6/20/2013, noted subjective complaints of intermittent headaches, jaw pain, teeth pain, clicking and popping of the bilateral jaws, frequent clenching and grinding of teeth, ringing in the ears, dry mouth, difficulty sleeping, and numerous loose/broken/chipped/fractured teeth. Currently, the injured worker complains of moderate to severe pain. The PR2 report, dated 2/10/2015, noted that he was in urgent need to have root canal treatment. Objective findings were not documented. Dental x-rays, dated 1/08/2013, were submitted. Undated dental x-rays were also submitted. An undated and unsigned report was submitted, noting impressions, treatment plan objectives, complications, treatment progression, and final phase of treatment. AME dentist in his report dated 01/08/13 states that this patient's current jaw, TMJ and dental related complaints, including clicking and popping in the jaw and jaw pain clenching and grinding of the teeth degenerative changes in the bilateral TM joints, rampant dental caries, fractured teeth, lost teeth, gum disease and xerostomia was the accidental injury as a result of his employment. AME has also diagnosed multiple teeth decay and fractures. AME recommends removal of the remaining teeth followed by full mouth reconstruction with implants and fixed hybrid prostheses. Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast

majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. "

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #3: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head (updated 06/04/13) Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "prefab post and core in add to crn tooth #3" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Root Canal Therapy Molar Tooth #3: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth

that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Root Canal Therapy Molar Tooth #3" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #4: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #4" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Root Canal Therapy - bicuspid tooth #4: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of Root Canal Therapy - bicuspid tooth #4" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Crown buildup, include any pins tooth #14: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG HeadDental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of Crown buildup, include any pins tooth #14 medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Root Canal Therapy Molar Tooth #14: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Root Canal Therapy Molar Tooth #14" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Crown buildup,include any pins tooth #19: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Crown buildup, include any pins tooth #19" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #28: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #28" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Root Canal Therapy - Bicuspid tooth #28: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Root Canal Therapy - Bicuspid tooth #28" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #29: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Prefab post & core in add to crn tooth #29" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Root Canal Therapy - Bicuspid tooth #29: 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) Treatment in Workers Compensation (TWC) Head Procedure Summary last updated 1/21/15.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Head Dental trauma treatment (facial fractures).

Decision rationale: Recent letter from the treating dentist states that "the patient and myself had disagreed with [REDACTED] recommendations and I presented an alternative treatment plan, the treatment plan that has been approved and is being implemented has been yielding excellent results and solving the vast majority of the patients initial symptoms. This patient is suffering from advanced chronic/acute TMJ disease and if one proceeded to remove all of the patients teeth and begin to restore his mouth the perpetuating the existing temporo mandibular symptoms is very probable. Per reference mentioned above, "If the pulp has been seriously damaged, the tooth will require root canal treatment before a crown. A tooth that is vertically fractured or fractured below the gum line will require root canal treatment and a protective restoration." Therefore, since this patient does not want to proceed with removal of all the teeth, this reviewer finds this alternative treatment plan of "Root Canal Therapy - Bicuspid tooth #29" medically necessary to properly repair this patient's decayed teeth.

Non IV conscious sedation: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.aetna.com/cbp/dental/data/DCPB0016.html> last updated 9/10/12 Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia and IV Sedation for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dental Services: Dental Policy Bulletin #16.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medscape reference: Nitrous Oxide Administration. Nili N Alai, MD, FAAD; Chief Editor: Rick Kulkarni, MD.

Decision rationale: According to the AME dentist, this patient developed chronic pain, as well as stress, anxiety and depression as a result of the injuries sustained while employed as a firefighter. Per Medscape reference mentioned above: "In dentistry, nitrous oxide is indicated to decrease the pain and anxiety associated with procedures. It is commonly delivered by a nasal mask in combination with oxygen" and that "indications in adult dental patients include anxiety, low pain tolerance, underlying psychiatric disorders, and mental retardation." Therefore, this request for Non IV conscious sedation is medically necessary in the treatment of this patient to decrease their pain and anxiety during the dental procedures.