

Case Number:	CM15-0052543		
Date Assigned:	03/26/2015	Date of Injury:	12/14/2010
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/03/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/19/2015

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: New Jersey, Michigan, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 57-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/14/2010 reporting head, neck, and both shoulders, upper and lower back pain. On provider visit dated 02/09/2015 the injured worker has reported neck, right shoulder pain and low back pain that radiates to the lower extremities with numbness and tingling. On examination, he was noted to have diffuse tenderness in cervical paraspinals muscles and was there for cervical traction. The diagnoses have included cervical/neck pain and cervical degenerative disc disease. Treatment to date has included MRI in 2011, chiropractic therapy, psychiatrist evaluation, psychologist evaluation and medication. The provider requested a MRI of the Cervical Spine due to increased pain since previous MRI study.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI of the Cervical Spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints.

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

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, MRI of the cervical spine is recommended if there is clinical or neuro-physiological evidence of disc herniation or an anatomical defect and if there is failure of therapy trials. There is no clinical evidence of anatomical defect or nerve compromise in this case. Therefore, the request for an MRI of cervical spine is not medically necessary.