

Case Number:	CM15-0084712		
Date Assigned:	05/07/2015	Date of Injury:	07/17/1997
Decision Date:	06/17/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/04/2015

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, Arizona, Maryland
Certification(s)/Specialty: Psychiatry

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 70-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on July 17, 1997. The injured worker's initial complaints and diagnoses are not included in the provided documentation. The injured worker was diagnosed as having chronic posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Treatment to date has included medications with monthly psychotropic medication management. On January 21, 2015, the injured worker complains of being depressed and crying. He sleeps 4-5 hours, with poor, interrupted sleep. He has been taking his current medications for more than one year. The treatment plan includes antidepressant medications, sleep medication, and monthly psychotropic medication management. The requested treatment is monthly psychotropic medication management 1 session / month x 6 months (posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Monthly psychotropic medication management 1 session/month x 6 months: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Mental Illness and Stress, Office Visits.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Chapter: Mental Illness & Stress Topic: Office visits.

Decision rationale: ODG states "Office visits are recommended as determined to be medically necessary. The need for clinical office visit with a health care provider is individualized based upon the review of patient concerns, signs, symptoms, clinical stability and reasonable physician judgment. The determination is also based on what medications the patient is taking, since some medications such as opiates, or medicines such as certain antibiotics, require close monitoring. As patient conditions are extremely varied, a set number of office visits per condition cannot be reasonably established. The determination of necessity for an office visit requires individualized case review and assessment, being ever mindful that the best patient outcomes are achieved with eventual patient independence from health care system through self care as soon as clinically feasible." The injured worker has been diagnosed with chronic posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and has been experiencing symptoms such as feeling depressed, crying episodes, poor/interrupted sleep. He has been continued on psychotropic medications including Trazodone, Dalmane and Cymbalta; none of which requires close monitoring such as 6 office visits. Thus, the request for Monthly psychotropic medication management 1 session/month x 6 months is excessive and not medically necessary.