

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0089152		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/14/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/03/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/29/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/06/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/08/2015

### 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: Tennessee, Florida, Ohio  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

### 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 was a 46-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury, November 3, 2010. The injury was sustained while lift a box of files and the injured worker feeling pain. The injured worker previously received the following treatments lumbar spine MRI, thoracic spine MRI, Cymbalta, Naproxen, Tramadol, physical therapy, Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen, Cyclobenzaprine and lumbar facet injections. The injured worker was diagnosed with chronic low back pain, mild facet L5-S1 without disc protrusion or stenosis, lumbar spondylosis, chronic pain syndrome, drug dependence, opioid type dependence, thoracic back pain and lumbago. According to progress note of March 5, 2015, the injured workers chief complaint was low back pain. The pain developed gradually of several years. The injured worker rated the pain 5 out of 1. The pain was described as aching, burning and throbbing quality and radiated into the bilateral buttocks, thigh, hip and leg. The pain had been constant and can last for varying amounts of time. The pain was aggravated by sitting or standing for long periods of time, bending and exercise. The physical exam noted paraspinal musculatures were non-tender with palpation and without trigger points. The lumbar spine was non-tender with palpation with no trigger point points found. The paraspinal muscle strength and muscle tone was within normal limits. The straight leg raises were negative bilaterally. The treatment plan included test Esophagogastroduodenoscopy including biopsy pathology, echo dobutamine stress echo, laboratory comprehensive metabolic panel, laboratory lipid panel.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Esophagogastroduodenoscope, including biopsy pathology: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Dobutamine stress echo: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Lipid Pane:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Lipoprotein-Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2):** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: C-Reactive Protein (CRP): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Lipoprotein: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Homocysteine: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG),

pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Hemoglobin A1c (HgB A1c): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Iron: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) preoperative testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Iron/Transferrin Index: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Vitamin B12: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Vitamin B1: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.

**Lab: Whole Blood: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Preoperative Testing.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS guidelines and the ACOEM Guidelines do not address the topic of medical clearance. According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), pre-operative medical clearance is: Preoperative additional tests are excessively ordered, even for young patients with low surgical risk, with little or no interference in perioperative management. This patient has been requested to receive multiple labs and tests in anticipation of Bariatric bypass surgery. The patient's bypass surgery has not been approved and the requested tests are not related to the patient's current complaint of lower back pain. Therefore, based on the submitted medical documentation, the request is not-medically necessary.