

Case Number:	CM15-0089335		
Date Assigned:	05/13/2015	Date of Injury:	04/07/2012
Decision Date:	06/22/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/15/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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: Iowa, Illinois, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive 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 (IW) is a 51-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 04/07/2012. Diagnoses include dermatitis, eczematous. According to the Qualified Medical Examination dated 2/27/15, the IW was noted to have crusted and ulcerated plaques on the bilateral hands. He stated this rash may have been caused by his exposure to metals, solvents, paint and chemicals during his employment; he did not always use gloves. He reported severe pain, bleeding and some itching accompanied the rash. He also stated this had caused changes to his physical appearance resulting in minimal embarrassment. The evaluator stated the dermatitis on his hands limits performance of activities of daily living and require monitoring and future medical treatment. It was recommended he continue seeing a dermatologist for his hands. The progress report dated 3/26/15 stated dry skin/open wounds were present on the bilateral thumbs, index and middle fingers. A request was made for a dermatology consult.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Dermatology consult: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation CA MTUS ACOEM OMPG (Second edition, 2004) page 127. Consultations and Independent Medical Examinations.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 2 General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation Page(s): 33. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Office Visits.

Decision rationale: ODG states concerning office visits "Recommended as determined to be medically necessary. Evaluation and management (E&M) outpatient visits to the offices of medical doctor(s) play a critical role in the proper diagnosis and return to function of an injured worker, and they should be encouraged. The need for a clinical office visit with a health care provider is individualized based upon a review of the patient concerns, signs and symptoms, clinical stability, and reasonable physician judgment. The determination is also based on what medications the patient is taking, since some medicines 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 the health care system through self-care as soon as clinically feasible". ACOEM states regarding assessments, "The content of focused examinations is determined by the presenting complaint and the area(s) and organ system(s) affected." Further writes that covered areas should include "Focused regional examination" and "Neurologic, ophthalmologic, or other specific screening". The treating physician does detail the rationale and provided additional information for the requested evaluation. Additionally, the treatment notes do detail what medications and symptoms are to be evaluated and treated. The treating physician did detail hand wounds and what first line treatments have failed. As such, the request for Dermatology consult is medically necessary at this time.