

Case Number:	CM15-0097820		
Date Assigned:	05/29/2015	Date of Injury:	11/19/2012
Decision Date:	07/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/21/2015

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: Texas, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 60 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on November 19, 2012. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The injured worker has been treated for low back complaints. The diagnoses have included degeneration of the lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc, multiple lumbar spine disc protrusions and lumbar spine osteoarthritis. Treatment to date has included medications, MRI, home exercise program, injections, physical therapy and a lumbar laminectomy. Current documentation dated March 16, 2015 notes that the injured worker reported low back pain with radiation to the left lower extremity. Examination of the lumbar spine revealed tenderness and spasms of the lower lumbar area. Range of motion was decreased and painful. Lasegue's test was positive on the left. Sensation was decreased in the dorsal aspect of the left lower extremity. The treating physician's plan of care included a request for x-rays of the lumbar spine 4-views. The medication list include Norco and Soma. The patient's surgical history includes low back surgery laminectomy on 5/1/14. The patient has had MRI of the lumbar spine that revealed disc bulge with foraminal narrowing. Any diagnostic imaging report was not specified in the records provided.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

X-ray of the lumbar spine 4-views: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): Table 12-8.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303-304.

Decision rationale: Request: X-ray of the lumbar spine 4-views. Per the ACOEM guidelines cited below, "Lumbar spine x rays may be appropriate when the physician believes it would aid in patient management." The diagnoses have included degeneration of the lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc, multiple lumbar spine disc protrusions and lumbar spine osteoarthritis. Treatment to date has included medications, MRI, home exercise program, injections, physical therapy and a lumbar laminectomy. Current documentation dated March 16, 2015 notes that the injured worker reported low back pain with radiation to the left lower extremity. Examination of the lumbar spine revealed tenderness and spasms of the lower lumbar area. Range of motion was decreased and painful. Lasegue's test was positive on the left. Sensation was decreased in the dorsal aspect of the left lower extremity. The patient's surgical history includes low back surgery laminectomy on 5/1/14. The patient has had MRI of the lumbar spine that revealed disc bulge with foraminal narrowing. Lumbar spine X-ray was requested to aid in patient management. The request for the X-ray of the lumbar spine 4-views is medically necessary and appropriate for this patient at this time.