

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0060430		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/03/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/20/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/29/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/03/2013

### HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a Physician Reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The Physician Reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery, and is licensed to practice in California. 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 Physician 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### 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 claimant is a 34-year-old gentleman who was injured October 3, 2012 sustaining an injury to the low back. Recent review of an August 29, 2013 Utilization Review indicated the claimant to be certified for surgical procedure to include an anterior posterior lumbar fusion at the L5-S1 level. Further review of the clinical records for this 34-year-old individual fails to demonstrate any degree of underlying comorbidity or medical diagnosis. There is a specific request in regard to the claimant's perioperative course of care for preoperative medical clearance for the above mentioned surgical process.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **ONE PRE-OPERATIVE MEDICAL CLEARANCE BETWEEN 8/20/2013 AND 10/27/2013: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation SURGERY GENERAL INFORMATION AND GROUND RULES, CALIFORNIA OFFICIAL MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE, 1999 EDITION PAGES 92-93

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 127.

**Decision rationale:** Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, the acute need of preoperative medical clearance prior to surgical intervention would not be supported. This individual is a healthy 34-year-old gentleman with no indication of underlying comorbidity, medication usage, or current working medical diagnosis to support the need of preoperative medical workup or assessment. The specific clinical request in this case would not be supported.