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| Case Number: | CM14-0121660 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 08/06/2014 | Date of Injury: | 12/19/2008 |
| Decision Date: | 09/26/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 07/03/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 08/01/2014 |

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Family Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Utah. 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/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 patient is a 61 year-old male. The patient's date of injury is 12/19/2008. The mechanism of injury is described as a gas tanking falling on him, while repairing a truck. The patient has been diagnosed with lumbar spondylosis, lumbar radiculopathy and neuritis, bilateral lumbar facet syndrome, and left leg pain. The patient's treatments have included injections, imaging, physical therapy, and medications. The physical exam findings, dated 06/25/2014 show that the patient had reduced range of motion with tenderness. The strength was reported as normal in the L4 and L5 dermatomes the sensation was reduced. The patient's medications have included, but are not limited to, Soma, Percocet and Lidoderm. The request is for a Genetic Drug Metabolism Test and Genetic Narcotic Risk Test.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Genetic Drug Metabolism Test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Pain Chapter, Genetic Testing for Potential Opioid Abuse.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), ODG - Pain Chapter, Genetic Drug Metabolism Testing.

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines are silent with regard to the above test. Other guidelines were reviewed in regards to this specific case, and the clinical documents were reviewed. The request is for Genetic Drug Metabolism Test. The Official Disability Guidelines state the following that this form of testing is not recommended. According to the clinical documentation provided and current guidelines, Genetic Drug Metabolism Test is not indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.

Genetic Narcotic Risk Test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Pain Chapter, Genetic Testing for Potential Opioid Abuse.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)ODG - Pain Chapter, Genetic Narcotic Risk Testing.

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines are silent with regard to the above test. Other guidelines were reviewed in regards to this specific case, and the clinical documents were reviewed. The request is for Genetic Narcotic Risk Test. The Official Disability Guidelines state the following that this form of testing is not recommended. According to the clinical documentation provided and current MTUS guidelines; Genetic Narcotic Risk Test is not indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.