

Case Number:	CM14-0125878		
Date Assigned:	08/13/2014	Date of Injury:	05/19/2010
Decision Date:	09/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/08/2014

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 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 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:

This 60-year-old injured worker has a date of injury of 5/19/2010. The mechanism of injury was not noted. In a progress noted dated 5/21/2014, subjective findings included patient feeling well, no complains, with blood pressure under control. There is not chest pain. On a physical exam dated 5/21/2014, objective findings included lump in neck is clear. Patient is on Metoprolol, Ramipril, Lipitor, Metformin, Glyburide, and Aspirin. Diagnostic impression listed as acute myocardial infarction. Treatment to date has included medication therapy and behavioral modification. A UR decision dated 8/7/2014 denied the request for lab work - specifically, a complete blood count (CBC), stating that only mild coronary artery disease was included in the diagnosis, and CBC is not appropriate in this case. Additional requests for lab work were denied (including total T3, T4, and T3 update), with the reviewer stating that no thyroid disease was diagnosed, and these tests assess how the thyroid is working.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lab work: Complete Blood Count: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA - CBC.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not apply. The FDA states that CBC (complete blood count) is used to diagnose infections or allergies, to detect blood clotting problems or blood disorders, such as anemia, and to evaluate red blood cell production or destruction. In the notes reviewed, and in the progress note dated 5/21/2014, there was no discussion regarding the medical necessity of a CBC. The patient is diagnosed with acute myocardial infarction, and no other diagnosis was found that would require a CBC. Therefore, the request for CBC is not medically necessary.

Lab work: Total T3: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA: Thyroid tests.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not apply. The FDA states that thyroid tests assess how well the thyroid is working, and used to diagnose and help find the cause of thyroid disorders such as hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism. In a progress note dated 5/21/2014, and in the reports reviewed, there was no evidence that the patient suffered from thyroid disorders. Therefore, the request for lab work: total T3 is not medically necessary.

Lab Work: T4: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA: Thyroid tests.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not apply. The FDA states that thyroid tests assess how well the thyroid is working, and used to diagnose and help find the cause of thyroid disorders such as hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism. In a progress note dated 5/21/2014, and in the reports reviewed, there was no evidence that the patient suffered from thyroid disorders. Therefore, the request for lab work: T4 is not medically necessary.

Lab work: T3 uptake: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA: Thyroid tests.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG do not apply. The FDA states that thyroid tests assess how well the thyroid is working, and used to diagnose and help find the cause of thyroid disorders such as hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism. In a progress note dated 5/21/2014, and in the reports reviewed, there was no evidence that the patient suffered from thyroid disorders. Therefore, the request for lab work: T3 uptake is not medically necessary.