

Case Number:	CM14-0139176		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	12/04/2012
Decision Date:	10/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/28/2014

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 is a 49-year-old female who reported an industrial injury to her shoulder and UE on 12/4/2012, 22 months ago, attributed to the performance of her usual and customary job duties reported as cumulative trauma. The patient underwent left shoulder arthroscopy with rotator cuff repair on 10/16/2013. The patient complained of continued left shoulder and left elbow pain. The patient had a prior MRI of the left shoulder dated 4/12/2014, which did not show objective evidence of epicondylitis. There were no specific interval changes on physical examination. The treatment plan included a repeated MRI of the left elbow.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI Left Elbow: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Elbow Chapter

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 235. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow chapter---MRI American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 10 revised 2007 pate 33-34

Decision rationale: The request for a repeated MRI of the left elbow is not supported by objective findings on physical examination. The prior MRI of the left elbow dated 4/12/2014 failed to demonstrate any evidence of an epicondylitis. There was no rationale for a repeated MRI of the left elbow after such a short time interval. There was no documented change in clinical status or in objective findings on examination. There was no rationale provided by the requesting physician supported by objective evidence to demonstrate the medical necessity of a repeated MRI of the left elbow. The submitted documentation does not meet the criteria recommended by the CA MTUS, the ACOEM Guidelines, or the Official Disability Guidelines for the authorization of MRI scans to the elbows. There was no documentation of an impending surgery or possible change in the treatment plan as the patient has not completed conservative treatment. The MRI was documented as a screening test. The patient was not demonstrated to have failed conservative treatment. The MRI of the elbow without significant conservative treatment is not demonstrated to be medically necessary. There is no objective medically based evidence provided to support the medical necessity of the requested MRI of the left elbow based on no documented clinical changes. The current diagnoses do not support the medical necessity of the requested repeated MRI of the left elbow. The provided conservative treatment is not complete, as the patient is not demonstrated to be performing a home exercise program. There is no demonstrated medical necessity for the requested repeat MRI of the left elbow.