

Case Number:	CM14-0139236		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	08/22/2013
Decision Date:	10/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/14/2014
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 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 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 claimant is a 37-year-old male who sustained a vocational injury on August 22, 2013 as a result of repetitive motion while making muffins. The claimant has been authorized to undergo outpatient right endoscopic carpal tunnel release and right radial tunnel release with an axillary block. The office note dated May 22, 2014 noted the claimant had a negative past medical history, negative past surgical history, no allergies, and his current medications were Soma, Naprosyn, Tylenol #3 and Flexeril. This review is for preoperative medical clearance prior to the surgical intervention.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Preoperative medical clearance: 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 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127 and Hegmann K, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Ed (2008 Revision) - pp. 503.

Decision rationale: The California ACOEM Guidelines note that consultations are typically utilized to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, and determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness to return to work. The consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity and they may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. The medical records provided for review do not document any past medical history or ongoing medical issues for this claimant that would require preoperative medical clearance and evaluation prior to proceeding with surgical intervention. Subsequently, the request for preoperative medical clearance cannot be considered medically necessary based on California ACOEM Guidelines.

Preoperative ECG (Electrocardiogram): 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 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127 and Hegmann K, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Ed (2008 Revision) - pp. 503.

Decision rationale: The California ACOEM Guidelines note that consultations are typically utilized to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, and determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness to return to work. The consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity and they may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. The medical records provided for review do not document any past medical history or ongoing medical issues for this claimant that would require a preoperative EKG in preparation for this surgery. The claimant does not meet criteria set forth to proceed with preoperative medical testing including EKG prior to proceeding with surgical intervention for open carpal tunnel release. Therefore, the request for preoperative ECG (Electrocardiogram) is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Preoperative chest x-ray: 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 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, Page 127 and Hegmann K, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Ed (2008 Revision) - pp. 503

Decision rationale: The California ACOEM Guidelines note that consultations are typically utilized to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, and determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness to return to work. The consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity and they may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. The medical records

provided for review do not document any past medical history or ongoing medical issues for this claimant that would require preoperative a preoperative chest x-ray prior to proceeding with surgical intervention in the form of carpal tunnel release and subsequently the request for preoperative chest x-ray is not medically necessary and appropriate based on California ACOEM Guidelines.

Preoperative laboratory tests: 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 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127 and Hegmann K, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Ed (2008 Revision) - pp. 503.

Decision rationale: The California ACOEM Guidelines note that consultations are typically utilized to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, and determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness to return to work. The consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity and they may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. The medical records provided for review do not document any past medical history or ongoing medical issues for this claimant that would require preoperative lab work prior to proceeding with carpal tunnel release and subsequently preoperative laboratory tests based on California ACOEM Guidelines cannot be considered medically necessary