

Case Number:	CM14-0140551		
Date Assigned:	09/10/2014	Date of Injury:	03/18/2014
Decision Date:	10/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/29/2014

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 Psychiatry 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 patient is a 53-year-old male who has submitted a claim for stress, anxiety and depression associated with an industrial injury date of March 18, 2014. Medical records from 2014 were reviewed, which showed that the patient complained of stress, anxiety and depression. No mental status examination is available from the records provided. There has been no treatment to date yet concerning the patient's complaints. Utilization review from August 1, 2014 denied the request for Consultation with a Psychiatric Specialist because there was nothing to suggest the type of psychiatric problem for which a specialist psychiatrist could be required.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Consultation with a Psychiatric Specialist: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 15 Stress Related Conditions Page(s): 398.

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(s) 127, 156

Decision rationale: According to pages 127 & 156 of the ACOEM Guidelines referenced by CA MTUS, consultations are recommended, and a health practitioner may refer to other specialists if

a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. In this case, the patient is being referred to a psychiatric specialist for the problems of stress, anxiety and depression. However, the provider did not further characterize these complaints. No mental status examination was found in the records. Therefore, the request for Consultation with a Psychiatric Specialist is not medically necessary.