

Case Number:	CM14-0159909		
Date Assigned:	10/03/2014	Date of Injury:	12/21/2011
Decision Date:	10/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/29/2014

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 Occupational 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:

The claimant was injured on 12/21/11. Multivitamins with iron are under review. These vitamins were recommended to diminish the risk of blood loss and/or anemia associated with upcoming hip replacement. The claimant was diagnosed with DJD (degenerative joint disease) of the left hip. On 08/05/14, medication was recommended until the hip replacement. The claimant stated on 03/06/14 that he wanted to delay his hip replacement until the fall. Hemoglobin was 15.3 and hematocrit 46.3 on 06/12/14. He does take baby aspirin. There is no mention of any history of bleeding. There is no mention of a significant past medical history. There is no documentation of anemia or blood loss. Multivitamins were ordered on 08/04/14. He does have a history of GI side effects from anti-inflammatory medications. He was given a topical patch instead.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Multivitamins with iron: 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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical

Evidence: PDR, 2014. Multivitamins with Iron and Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine chapter on anemia

Decision rationale: The history and documentation do not objectively support the request for multivitamins with iron to prevent blood loss and anemia prior to hip arthroscopy. The PDR and Harrison's textbook recommend iron replacement when needed for iron deficiency anemia. There is no evidence that the claimant has had any history of bleeding or anemia or is currently actively bleeding or is suspected as having occult bleeding. His hemoglobin and hematocrit were noted to be within normal limits. There is no documentation of low iron stores in the body. The claimant has a history of gastrointestinal symptoms with anti-inflammatory medications but the records do not state that he bled. There is no evidence of a low iron level. The medical necessity of this request has not been clearly demonstrated.