

Case Number:	CM14-0168356		
Date Assigned:	10/16/2014	Date of Injury:	04/15/2011
Decision Date:	12/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/13/2014

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 Internal 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 injured worker is a 47 year-old male, who was injured on April 15, 2011, while performing regular work duties. The injury mechanism is not provided in the records. The records indicate the injured worker reports difficulty with functioning, headaches and fatigue with daytime somnolence, and witnessed episodes of apnea. An examination on August 12, 2014, by the primary treating physician indicates the injured worker's weight is 212 pounds, breathing is within normal limits, and cardiovascular system is within normal limits, blood glucose over 100 mg/dl, and is taking cholesterol medications. The request is for a full night CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) titration sleep study. The primary diagnosis is sleep apnea. Additional diagnoses are myocardial infarction, borderline hypertension, coronary artery disease, and left ventricular hypertrophy. On September 19, 2014, Utilization Review non-certified the full night CPAP titrations sleep study due to it being unclear if the requested sleep study would change the injured worker's treatment plan. The Utilization Review indicates the injured worker reports being non-compliant with CPAP therapy due to being unable to tolerate the mask.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Full night CPAP titration sleep study times one: 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 <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd>

Decision rationale: Pursuant to the National Coverage Determinations (CMS), full night CPAP titration study times one is not medically necessary. Nationally covered indications state CPAP is covered under Medicare when used in adult patients with obstructive sleep apnea. Coverage is initially limited to a 12 week period to identify beneficiaries diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea who benefit from CPAP. See National Coverage Determination for details. In this case, the injured worker is 47 years old. The date of injury was April 15, 2011. The injured worker underwent a previously study in 2011. He was prescribed CPAP at that time. Patient has been non-compliant with CPAP therapy due to inability to tolerate the mask. Other comorbidity conditions are myocardial infarction and borderline hypertension. The previous reports suggested that symptoms might simply be avoided by a position change resulting in significant improvement in the patient's mild obstructive sleep apnea. However, the medical record does not contain a discussion of the injured worker's inability to tolerate a CPAP mask. Additionally, it is unclear how an additional CPAP titration sleep study will alter the treatment plan because the injured worker is not able to tolerate the CPAP mask. Consequently, full-length CPAP titration study times one is not medically necessary.