

Case Number:	CM14-0179070		
Date Assigned:	11/03/2014	Date of Injury:	07/10/2008
Decision Date:	12/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/28/2014

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:

This is a 54 year old female with a 7/10/08 injury date. The patient has been approved for right shoulder arthroscopy. In a 5/30/14 note, the patient's medical history was reviewed and included possible obstructive sleep apnea, hypertension, headaches, a history of breast cancer, peripheral vascular disease, obesity, and questionable hypothyroidism. It was noted that she is at risk for carotid disease based upon age, obesity, and hypertension. At that time, a physical exam was performed along with laboratory studies, exercise stress test, metabolic study, 24-hr blood pressure monitoring, and pulmonary function testing. Diagnostic impression: right shoulder impingement syndrome. Treatment to date includes physical therapy, activity modification, and anti-inflammatories. A UR decision on 10/23/14 denied the request for medical clearance to include x-ray because the patient already had a pulmonary function test (12/2013) and there was no documentation of underlying pulmonary pathology. The request for medical clearance to include possible cardiac clearance was denied because the patient had an exercise stress test (12/2013) and there was no documentation of ongoing chest pain or shortness of breath.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Medical Clearance to include X-ray: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pulmonary Chapter, X-ray

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG): Low Back Chapter, Pre-Operative EKG and Lab testing

Decision rationale: The California MTUS does not address this issue. Official Disability Guidelines states that chest radiography is reasonable for patients at risk of postoperative pulmonary complications if the results would change perioperative management. In this case there has already been pulmonary function testing (12/2013) and there is no available history of smoking or other ongoing pulmonary diseases. There is a history of "possible" obstructive sleep apnea. This patient has also been recommended for medical evaluation for preoperative cardiac clearance. Chest X-rays may provide important information regarding the size, shape, contour, and anatomic location of the heart, lungs, bronchi, great vessels (aorta, aortic arch, pulmonary arteries), mediastinum (an area in the middle of the chest separating the lungs). Changes in the normal structure of the heart, lungs, and/or lung vessels (i.e. enlargement, calcifications) may indicate disease or other conditions. Therefore, the request for medical clearance to include x-ray is not medically necessary.

Medical Clearance to include possible Cardiac Clearance: Overturned

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 ACC/AHA 2007 Guidelines on perioperative cardiovascular evaluation and care for noncardiac surgery

Decision rationale: The California MTUS does not address this issue. The ACC/AHA 2007 Guidelines on perioperative cardiovascular evaluation and care for non-cardiac surgery state that in the asymptomatic patient, a more extensive assessment of history and physical examination is warranted in those individuals 50 years of age or older. This patient is 54 years old and has a history of hypertension, obesity, and peripheral vascular disease. Even though the patient did have an exercise stress test in 12/2013, a formal medical/cardiac clearance would be appropriate. Therefore, the request for medical clearance to include possible cardiac clearance is medically necessary.