

Case Number:	CM14-0179764		
Date Assigned:	11/04/2014	Date of Injury:	12/29/2006
Decision Date:	12/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/29/2014

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in North Carolina. 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 had a date of injury of 12/29/2006. Diagnoses include cervical and lumbar degenerative disc disease, chronic pain, gastrointestinal reflux disease, morbid obesity, depression and anxiety. Prior treatment has included lumbar fusion, epidural steroid injections physical therapy and medications including Opana, Cymbalta and Prevacid. The requests is for lab studies: CBC and CMP.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Labs CBC CMC: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation 1.) Fischbach FT, Dunning MB III, eds. (2009). Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, 8th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.2.) Pagana KD, Pagana TJ (2010). Mosby's Manual of Diagnostic and Laboratory Tests, 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby Elsevier.

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: McGraw Hill Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, 2013, pages 177, 581

Decision rationale: CA MTUS, ACOEM and ODG are silent of laboratory tests such as CBC and CMP. A CBC may be ordered to assess for signs of infection, inflammation, anemia or other blood or bone marrow condition. A CMP may be ordered to assess electrolytes levels, kidney function or liver function. In this case, there is no explanation of the reason for ordering the tests. Without a documented medical explanation of the need for the tests, the CBC and CMP are not medically necessary.