

Case Number:	CM14-0029386		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	02/21/2008
Decision Date:	09/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/07/2014

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 Osteopathic Family Practice 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 66 year old diabetic male with a history of MI, hyperlipidemia and ischemic heart disease who sustained an industrial injury on 2/21/2008. The patient is status post cardiac catheterization and placement of 2 stents in 2009 and coronary artery bypass graft. Diagnoses includes hypertension with hypertensive heart disease, coronary heart disease and CHF with estimated EF of 40%. The patient was examined on 2/18/14 at which time he felt good with no new complaints. BP is controlled with medications. The utilization review of 2/27/14 denied the request for blood work: micro albumin assay, urine creatinine assay and lipid panel as the medical records did not indicate when the tests were previously done and why a repeat study is needed at this time. The medical records indicate that micro albumin assay, urine creatinine assay and lipid panel was performed on 5/14/13 at which time lipid panel was elevated and that micro albumin assay/ urine creatinine assay was within normal limits. Lipid panel was performed on 11/12/13 and was elevated.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Laboratory testing, micro albumin.: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed24205706.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines do not address laboratory studies. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: PubMed J Clin Lab Anal. 2009;23(5):314-8. doi: 10.1002/jcla.20341.

Decision rationale: The medical records indicate that the patient is a diabetic who has significant cardiovascular disease. References indicate that determination of albumin (ALB) in human urine is important to assess kidney functions in a variety of diseases. The patient underwent the requested testing in May 2013. Given that the last test was performed well over a year ago, at this time, a repeat study would be warranted and is medically necessary.

Laboratory testing, urine creatinine: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed24205706.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia.

Decision rationale: The medical records indicate that the patient is a diabetic who has significant cardiovascular disease. The patient underwent the requested testing in May 2013. Given that the last test was performed well over a year ago, at this time, a repeat study would be warranted and is medically necessary.

Laboratory testing, lipid panel.: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=15643. Title Adapting your Practice.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia.

Decision rationale: The patient has hyperlipidemia and significant cardiovascular disease. The last lipid panel was performed on November 12, 2013 and was elevated. An updated lipid panel would be supported and medically indicated at this time given that it has been approximately nine months since the last study.