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| Case Number: | CM14-0097451 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 07/25/2014 | Date of Injury: | 03/08/2011 |
| Decision Date: | 09/18/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 06/12/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 06/21/2014 |

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 03/08/11. A dermatology consultation has been requested. He has diagnoses of depression and anxiety. Medications and an internal medicine evaluation were certified. Dermatology consultation was not certified. He reported skin changes and hair loss. He was becoming obsessed with hyperpigmentation of his skin and hair loss. The pigmentation was not very evident but he requested an evaluation. He was dysphoric. His affect was constricted. He continued with a decline psychologically. He has been seeing a psychiatrist and complains of significant depression, anxiety, and fear. He had not been seen for a long time but he felt better with his medications. He had not had a medical evaluation. No specific etiology of the skin and hair changes was noted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Dermatology consultation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004): Chapter 7, Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

Decision rationale: The history and documentation do not objectively support the request for a Dermatology consultation. The MTUS state "if a diagnosis is uncertain or complex, if psychosocial factors are present, or if the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise, the occupational health physician may refer a patient to other specialists for an independent medical assessment." In this case, however, the specific problem that is to be evaluated by the specialist has not been defined and is barely visible to this provider. It is not clear why a specialist consultation is necessary, if the claimant has a psychiatric disorder that may explain his concerns. His skin and hair concerns are not clearly described in the records and the anticipated benefit of this type of consultation has not been explained. The medical necessity of this request for a Dermatology consultation has not been clearly demonstrated.