

Case Number:	CM14-0211232		
Date Assigned:	12/24/2014	Date of Injury:	10/22/2004
Decision Date:	02/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/17/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: Pennsylvania

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Hospice & Palliative Medicine

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 30-year-old gentleman with a date of injury of 10/22/2004. The submitted and reviewed documentation did not identify the mechanism of injury. Treating physician notes dated 11/13/2014 indicated the worker was experiencing right knee pain, problems sleeping, stomach irritation, and constipation. The documented examination described tenderness in the wrists and elbows, tenderness in the left kneecap, decreased sensation along the L2-S1 spinal nerve paths, tenderness in the lower back with spasm, decreased muscle and tenderness in the right buttocks, positive left FABER testing, right leg weakness, decreased reflexes at the left ankle, and a flattened manner. The submitted and reviewed documentation concluded the worker was suffering from strain/sprain of both wrists, elbows, and knees; right lumbosacral plexopathy; chronic pain syndrome; situational depression; morbid obesity; neuropathy; panic attacks; and adjustment disorder. Treatment recommendations included medications, laboratory blood tests, and evaluation of the worker's urine. A Utilization Review decision was rendered on 12/05/2014 recommending non-certification for a urinalysis with culture and sensitivity and laboratory blood tests including a CBC with differential, CMP, sedimentation rate, TSH, testosterone level, cortisol level, ACTH, and CPK.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urinalysis: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 77-80 and 94. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0004046/>

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Urinalysis. MedLine Plus Medical Encyclopedia. Accessed 02/11/2015. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003579.htm>.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue. Urinalysis is used to evaluate the urinary system. The submitted and reviewed records indicated the worker was experiencing right knee pain, problems sleeping, stomach irritation, and constipation. It was noted the worker was not having a problem with urination. There was no discussion suggesting signs or symptoms of a problem with any part of the urinary system or explaining the reason this study was requested. In the absence of such evidence, the current request for a urinalysis is not medically necessary.

Urine Culture & Sensitivity (C&S): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0004211/> ; A.D.A.M. Medical Encyclopedia

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Urinalysis. MedLine Plus Medical Encyclopedia. Accessed 02/11/2015. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003579.htm>.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue. Urinalysis is used to evaluate the urinary system. When findings of an active infection are found in the urine using a urinalysis, a culture and sensitivity shows which type of bacteria is causing the infection and which medications are likely to kill the bacteria. The submitted and reviewed records indicated the worker was experiencing right knee pain, problems sleeping, stomach irritation, and constipation. It was noted the worker was not having a problem with urination. There was no discussion suggesting signs or symptoms suggesting a urine infection or explaining the reason this study was requested. In the absence of such evidence, the current request for a urine culture with sensitivity is not medically necessary.

Other labs: CBC with diff, CMP, Sedimentation Rate, TSH, Testosterone level, Cortisol level, ACTH, CPK: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs Page(s): 70. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12710004/> ; A.D.A.M. Medical Encyclopedia

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Complete blood count (CBC). MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003642.htm>, Accessed 02/11/2015, Chemistry panels. <http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/chem-panel/tab/glance>. Accessed 02/11/2015, Ross DS, et al. Laboratory assessment of thyroid function. Topic 7891, version 17.0. Up-to-date, accessed 01/06/2015, CPK isoenzymes test. MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlin>

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue in this clinical situation. A complete blood count (CBC) is a panel of laboratory blood tests that look closely at the components of the blood in several different ways. A comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP) is a group of blood tests that generally look at the salt balance in the blood, blood sugar level, blood cholesterol levels, kidney function, and liver function. The literature supports screening those at increased risk for thyroid disease with a thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) blood level. Testosterone, cortisol, and adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) are hormones in the body that control many different body functions. The creatine phosphokinase (CPK) is a special protein found in the heart, brain, and muscles. A high level in the blood can suggest a problem with one of those parts of the body. The erythrocyte sedimentation rate is a non-specific blood test that looks at any swelling, infection, or inflammation in the body. However, on-going diseases can also increase this test without those issues occurring in the body. The submitted and reviewed records indicated the worker was experiencing right knee pain, problems sleeping, stomach irritation, and constipation. There was no discussion suggesting the reason these panels of blood tests were necessary in this setting or describing signs or symptoms suggesting a problem that would be shown with these panels of blood tests. In the absence of such evidence, the current request for laboratory blood tests including a CBC with differential, CMP, sedimentation rate, TSH, testosterone level, cortisol level, ACTH, and CPK is not medically necessary.