

Case Number:	CM14-0214574		
Date Assigned:	01/07/2015	Date of Injury:	08/11/2011
Decision Date:	02/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/22/2014

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 57 year old male with an injury date of 08/11/11. Based on the 06/23/14 progress report, the patient complains of pain and weakness in his right shoulder. The 09/02/14 report indicates that the patient continues to have pain in his shoulder. There are no objective findings listed. The 10/21/14 report does not provide any additional information. The 06/19/14 MRI of the right shoulder shows a massive retracted rotator cuff tear. The patient's diagnoses include the following: Sprain/strain rotator cuff The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 12/16/14. Treatment reports are provided from 03/25/14- 10/21/14. The reports provided minimal information.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Peer to Peer Pre-operative labworks: 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), Low Back, Preoperative lab testing

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, specific drug list & adverse effects Page(s): 70.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with pain and weakness in his right shoulder. The request is for peer to peer pre-operative lab works. The 10/21/14 report states that the patient is to "schedule surgery." However, the report with the requested lab work is not provided. The MTUS, ACOEM, and ODG Guidelines do not specifically discuss routine laboratory testing. However, the MTUS Guidelines page 70 does discuss "periodic lab monitoring of CBC and chemistry profile (including liver and renal function tests)." MTUS states that monitoring of CBC is recommended when patients take NSAIDs. It goes on to state, "There has been a recommendation to measure liver and transaminases within 4 to 8 weeks after starting therapy, but the interval of repeating lab tests after this treatment duration has not been established." The 06/19/14 report indicates that the treater recommends "arthroscopic rotator cuff repair with platelet-rich plasma injection." There is no recent list of medications nor is the reason for this request provided. There is no indication of when the patient is having surgery or if the surgery is authorized yet. In this request, a specific guideline cannot be cited because the requested service was not described in sufficient detail. In order to select the relevant guideline, the requested service must refer to a specific treatment, including the ingredients of the requested medications. The request in this case was too generic and might conceivably refer to any number of medical conditions and guideline citations. Therefore, the requested "peer to peer pre-operative lab work" is not medically necessary.