

Case Number:	CM14-0214627		
Date Assigned:	01/07/2015	Date of Injury:	05/20/2010
Decision Date:	02/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/18/2014
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: New York

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease

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 56 year old male with a date of injury of 05/20/2010. He was injured driving a forklift. He has chronic low back pain with a listed diagnosis of L5-S1 radiculopathy. On 11/24/2014 he had an IME and lumbar surgery was not certified. On 01/05/2015 he had lumbar tenderness to palpation and an equivocal straight leg raising sign.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

7 views xrays of the lumbar spine with excrusion movements: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints
Page(s): 287 - 316.

Decision rationale: The injury is almost 5 years ago and there is no documentation of any recent red flag signs, significant change in his functionality or change in his physical exam. Imaging studies that were requested - 7 views - are not consistent with ACOEM guidelines which sets the specific clinical situations as noted above as indications for imaging studies.

