

Case Number:	CM14-0217636		
Date Assigned:	01/07/2015	Date of Injury:	04/11/2002
Decision Date:	03/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/29/2014

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 60 year old male with an injury date on 4/11/02. The patient complains of lower back pain radiating from low back down the right leg per 11/13/14 report. The patient rates his pain with medications as 4/10, and without medications as 8/10 per 11/13/14 report. The patient states his activity level has remained the same per 9/25/14 report. The patient notes that the medications are effective in reducing pain so he can work full time per 9/25/14 report. Based on the 11/13/14 progress report provided by the treating physician, the diagnoses are: 1. post lumbar laminectomy syndrome 2. spinal/lumbar degenerative disc disease 3. lower back pain A physical exam on 11/13/14 showed straight leg raise negative. L-spine range of motion is restricted with pain on flexion." The patient's treatment history includes medications, urine drug screen, L-spine MRI. The treating physician is requesting 1 labs to include BNN, creatine, and hepatic function panel. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 12/2/14. The requesting physician provided treatment reports from 5/8/14 to 2/5/15.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Labs: BUN, Creatine, and Hepatic Funtion Panel: Overturned

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 Aetna Healthline: Liver Function Tests

Decision rationale: This patient presents with back pain, right leg pain. The treater has asked for 1 LABS TO INCLUDE BUN, CREATINE, AND HEPATIC FUNCTION PANEL on 11/13/14 "given his chronic use of opiate medication. Last labs 9/5/13 blood work labs WNL. The patient's current medications are Cymbalta and Norco per 11/13/14 report. Regarding Liver Function Tests, MTUS, ACOEM, and ODG are silent. Aetna Healthline states liver function tests measure certain chemicals produced by liver to determine whether your liver is damaged or inflamed. Aetna states: Tests may measure: Bilirubin, Albumin, Prothrombin time and INR (a measure of blood clotting). The liver may be damaged if patient has increased levels of: Alanine aminotransferase (ALT or SGPT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST or SGOT) or an increased level of alkaline phosphatase (AP) which may indicate blockage of bile ducts. These tests can also help diagnose long-term (chronic) infection. Hepatitis C infection is considered chronic when liver enzymes remain elevated for longer than 6 months. If patient is being treated with antiviral therapy, the treater may have liver tests from time to time to see whether treatment is working. In this case, the patient has been taking opiates long term, and the treater is requesting liver/kidney function tests. The most recent lab was done more than a year ago. The requested BUN, creatine, and hepatic function panel appears reasonable. The request IS medically necessary.