

Case Number:	CM15-0010551		
Date Assigned:	01/28/2015	Date of Injury:	08/22/2014
Decision Date:	03/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/07/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/19/2015

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 injured worker is a 35 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 8/22/14. On 1/19/15, the injured worker submitted an application for IMR for review of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the left elbow. The treating provider has reported the injured worker complained of pain up to left elbow and shoulder and low back pain. The diagnoses have included left lumbar contusion, lumbosacral sprain/strain, back contusion, neoprene sleeve to left elbow. Treatment to date has included medication, physical therapy, heating pad, x-ray lumbar spine, MRI Lumbar Spine (12/11/14). On 1/7/15 Utilization Review non-certified of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the left elbow. The MTUS Guidelines are cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the left elbow: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): Chapter Elbow Disorder, Special Studies and Diagnostic, pages 601-602.

Decision rationale: Criteria for ordering imaging studies such include Emergence of a red flag; Physiologic evidence of tissue insult or neurologic dysfunction; Failure to progress in a strengthening program intended to avoid surgery; Clarification of the anatomy prior to an invasive procedure. Physiologic evidence may be in the form of definitive neurologic findings on physical examination and electrodiagnostic studies. Unequivocal findings that identify specific nerve compromise on the neurologic examination are sufficient evidence to warrant imaging studies if symptoms persist; however, review of submitted medical reports have not adequately demonstrated the indication for the MRI with exam findings only indicating tenderness with full range without instability or neurological deficits. When the neurologic examination is less clear, further physiologic evidence of nerve dysfunction can be obtained before ordering an imaging study. The MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the left elbow is not medically necessary and appropriate.