

Case Number:	CM15-0013503		
Date Assigned:	02/02/2015	Date of Injury:	07/29/2010
Decision Date:	05/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/31/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/23/2015

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: Illinois

Certification(s)/Specialty: Ophthalmology

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 59 year old male who sustained a work related injury on July 29, 2010. There was no mechanism of injury documented. The injured worker was diagnosed with TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) without further details. The injured worker presented for evaluation of double vision, blurry vision and headaches occurring since September 29, 2014. The injured worker also has vertigo and mood swings. Current medications consist of Pataday eye drops, Zolof and Klonopin. The treating physician requested authorization for twelve (12) sessions of vision therapy. On December 31, 2014 the Utilization Review denied certification for twelve (12) sessions of vision therapy. Patient reports both vertical and horizontal diplopia. Exotropia is noted on exam. Citations used in the decision process were the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) and from the National Guideline Clearinghouse.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Twelve sessions of vision therapy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Clearinghouse Guidelines, Care of the Patient with Accommodative and Vergence Dysfunction.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

Decision rationale: This is a patient who has suffered traumatic brain injury and has secondary vision problem including double vision. Based on the patient's exam findings, it appears that the patient has both horizontal and vertical double vision with a corresponding deficit in ocular alignment/movement. The patient was evaluated by an optometrist who has recommended Vision therapy. Based on treatment guidelines (by the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus) and published studies (McGregor ML. Convergence insufficiency and vision therapy. *Pediatr Clin North Am.* 2014 Jun; 61(3): 621-30), the only condition that has proven to be treatable with Vision Therapy is convergence insufficiency. This patient most likely has a much more complex condition that likely involves oculomotor palsy/palsies. For instance, vertical double vision is not a feature of convergence insufficiency. Therefore, the use of Vision Therapy/Training in this case is not medically indicated until they have had a more complete evaluation of their condition and it is demonstrated that they have convergence insufficiency. An evaluation by a neuro-ophthalmologist and/or adult strabismus specialist is the appropriate course of action for this patient's visual complaints. The above request is not medically necessary.