

Case Number:	CM15-0017255		
Date Assigned:	02/05/2015	Date of Injury:	09/14/1999
Decision Date:	03/25/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/24/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/29/2015

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: New Jersey
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 65 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 9/14/99. She subsequently reports back injury. The injured worker had undergone back surgeries and sustained brain injury during one of these surgeries. The UR decision dated 1/24/15 partially-certified Labs to include testing for CK Total, Ferritin, Iron, LH, Prolactin, Gabapentin, Ammonia, Morphine, Oxycodone Level, Tylenol Level, RPR, Sed rate, TSH, Vitamin b12/Folic Acid, Methymalonic Acid, Benzodiazepine Level, EEG. The request was modified to include CK Total, Ferritin, Iron, Prolactin, RPR, Sed rate, TSH, Vitamin b12/Folic Acid, Methymalonic Acid, EEG. Non-MTUS criteria was utilized to make to above decision.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Labs to include testing for CK Total, Ferritin, Iron, LH, Prolactin, Gabapentin, Ammonia, Morphine, Oxycodone Level, Tylenol Level, RPR, Sed rate, TSH, Vitamin b12/Folic Acid, Methymalonic Acid, Benzodiazepine Level, EEG: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Institute for Clinical Systems Improvements (ICSI), 2013 Jul. p.87; National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), 2013, Feb. p63; New York State Department of Health, 2011, Oct. p. 18

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 44.

Decision rationale: The MTUS ACOEM Guidelines states that some health care providers may perform multiple tests and procedures to attempt to determine the source of workers' complaints, and in the absence of reproducible objective findings that are known to be work-related, an incomplete or inaccurate approach to the patient assessment may set the stage for the prolongation of medical care, delayed recovery, and later the range of behaviors that develop in order to prove that the symptoms reflect an injury or occupational disease that precludes a return to the work environment. When patients are actively involved in decision making, it is possible to decrease inappropriate testing and treatment and hasten recovery. In the case of this worker, there were tests ordered included many blood tests for the purpose of determining any treatable causes of dementia/mental status changes. However, the worker, as documented in the progress note provided, had a workup during a hospitalization recently (2014), but the provider apparently did not have the results to review at the time. Some or many of the tests requested that day may have been already performed but not reviewed, which might have greatly reduced the number of tests requested, had the provider seen the results. Since the symptoms of the worker had not changed significantly (mental status) since the prior year according to the notes provided for review, it seems medically unnecessary to complete this long list of tests.