

Case Number:	CM15-0119149		
Date Assigned:	06/29/2015	Date of Injury:	01/31/2002
Decision Date:	07/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/21/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/19/2015

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: New Jersey, Alabama, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine

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 48 year old male with an industrial injury dated 01/31/2002. The injured worker's diagnoses include degeneration of the lumbar/lumbosacral, sacroiliitis and chronic pain syndrome. Treatment consisted of diagnostic studies, prescribed medications, sacroiliac (SI) joint injection and periodic follow up visits. In a progress note dated 04/17/2015, the injured worker reported back pain. The injured worker rated pain a 9/10 and a 2/10 with medication. Objective findings revealed mild distress, tenderness to palpitation of lumbar paraspinous area, tenderness to palpitation throughout back, decreased range of motion, bilateral positive sacroiliac joint, positive Patrick's sign and positive Faber's test. The treating physician prescribed services for repeat bilateral sacroiliac joint injection with fluoroscopy now under review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bilateral sacroiliac joint injection with fluoroscopy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines-Treatment in Workers' Compensation, Online Edition, Hip & Pelvis (Acute & Chronic).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Sacroiliac injections.

Decision rationale: MTUS guidelines are silent regarding sacroiliac injections. According to ODG guidelines, sacroiliac injections are medically necessary if the patient fulfills the following criteria: 1. The history and physical examination should suggest the diagnosis; 2. Other pain generators should be excluded; 3. Documentation of failure of 4-6 weeks aggressive therapies; 4. Blocks are performed under fluoroscopy; 5. Documentation of 80% pain relief for a diagnostic block; 6. If steroids are injected during the initial injection, the duration of relief should be at least 6 weeks; 7. In the therapeutic phase, the interval between 2 block is at least 2 months; 8. The block is not performed at the same day as an epidural injection; 9. The therapeutic procedure should be repeated as needed with no more than 4 procedures per year. In this case, there is no objective evidence of functional improvement derived from the previous SI joint injection. Therefore, the requested for Bilateral sacroiliac joint injection with fluoroscopy is not medically necessary.