

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0119287		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/29/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/19/2015
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/31/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/13/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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: Texas, New York, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 applicant is a represented 43-year-old who has filed a claim for neck and shoulder pain with derivative complaints of headaches and tinnitus reportedly associated with an industrial motor vehicle accident (MVA) of February 19, 2015. In a Utilization Review report dated June 13, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for MRI imaging of the brain. The claims administrator referenced an RFA form received on June 4, 2015 in its determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On July 2, 2015, the attending provider appealed the previously denied brain MRI, noting that the applicant reported issues with dizziness, fatigue, malaise, difficulty concentrating, photophobia, etc. The attending provider stated that earlier CT imaging of the cervical spine was non-diagnostic. On May 28, 2015, the applicant transferred care to a new primary treating provider (PTP), reporting issues with difficulty concentrating, dizziness, imbalance, photophobia, and headaches reportedly imputed to an industrial motor vehicle accident of February 19, 2015. The applicant was using Fioricet for headaches. Imitrex and Cambia were endorsed. The applicant exhibited a slightly wobbly gait in the clinic but did exhibit normal heel and toe ambulation. MRI imaging of the brain, manipulative therapy, and acupuncture were endorsed. The applicant was precluded from driving a truck, effectively resulting in his removal from his job. It was acknowledged that the applicant was no longer working.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**MRI of the brain:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), head, MRI imaging, neck.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Radiology.

**Decision rationale:** Yes, the proposed MRI of the brain was medically necessary, medically appropriate, and indicated here. The MTUS does not address the topic. However, the American College of Radiology (ACR) notes that indication for brain MRI imaging include trauma and/or suspected posttraumatic brain injury, both of which were seemingly present here. The applicant had complaints of headaches, dizziness, and difficulty concentrating, malaise, gait imbalance, etc., present following an earlier industrial motor vehicle accident some three months prior. Obtaining MRI imaging to delineate any structural source for the applicant's ongoing issues with headaches, photophobia, gait imbalance, etc. Therefore, the request was medically necessary.