

Case Number:	CM15-0119911		
Date Assigned:	06/30/2015	Date of Injury:	12/15/2014
Decision Date:	09/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/22/2015

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, Arizona

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 53-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/15/14. He has reported initial complaints of a pop in the right shoulder with immediate pain. The diagnoses have included right shoulder pain with rotator cuff weakness and impingement, cervical strain/sprain with degenerative changes and right arm numbness and tingling, lumbar sprain/strain with burning sensation in the right leg and history of a pelvic fracture. Treatment to date has included medications, activity modifications, diagnostics, injections, and physical therapy. Currently, as per the physician progress note dated 5/6/15, the injured worker complains of intermittent cervical pain rated 5-6/10 on pain scale described as aching, shooting pain that radiates to the right shoulder with muscle tightness, fatigue and numbness and tingling that radiates to the right little finger. The right shoulder pain is rated 6-8/10 on pain scale with burning, weakness and sharp shooting pain that radiates to the hand. The lumbar spine and right leg exam reveals pain rated 5/10 on pain scale with muscle tightness and tension, burning, fatigue, weakness and sharp shooting pain radiating to the right leg. He also reports changes in mood, decreased appetite and anxiety. The physical exam reveals decreased cervical range of motion, decreased sensation in the right cervical dermatomes, and Spurling's test causes pain in the right arm with stiffness. The right shoulder exam reveals pain and stiffness, decreased range of motion, and positive impingement sign. The lumbar spine exam reveals spasm, decreased range of motion, he walks with a limp, unable to walk on toes and heels, there is decreased sensation, and positive straight leg raise on the right. The diagnostic testing that was performed included x-ray of the right shoulder and x-ray of the cervical spine. The physician requested

treatments included electromyography (EMG) left upper extremity QTY: 1.00, Nerve conduction study left upper extremity QTY: 1.00, electromyography (EMG) left lower extremity QTY: 1.00, Nerve conduction study left lower extremity QTY: 1.00 and Urine toxicology testing QTY: 1.00.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

EMG left upper extremity QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 178.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 2009 Drug Screening Section.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS, Nerve Conduction and EMG studies can be considered to help identify subtle neurologic dysfunction. These studies can be indicated to identify causes of pain that include radiculopathy, and compression or entrapment neuropathies. They are warranted after failure of conservative management for 4-6 weeks. The injured worker is noted to have obvious radicular pain, and his symptoms are affecting the right side. Right sided electro diagnostic studies were approved per chart review. Left sided studies are not indicated. As such, this request is not medically necessary at this time, as there is no suspicion for neurologic dysfunction on the left side.

Never conduction study left upper extremity QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 178.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS, Nerve Conduction and EMG studies can be considered to help identify subtle neurologic dysfunction. These studies can be indicated to identify causes of pain that include radiculopathy, and compression or entrapment neuropathies. They are warranted after failure of conservative management for 4-6 weeks. The injured worker is noted to have obvious radicular pain, and his symptoms are affecting the right side. Right sided electro diagnostic studies were approved per chart review. Left sided studies are not indicated. As such, this request is not medically necessary a time as there is no suspicion for neurologic dysfunction on the left side.

EMG left lower extremity QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS, Nerve Conduction and EMG studies can be considered to help identify subtle neurologic dysfunction. These studies can be indicated to identify causes of pain that include radiculopathy, and compression or entrapment neuropathies. They are warranted after failure of conservative management for 4-6 weeks. The injured worker is noted to have obvious radicular pain, and his symptoms are affecting the right side. Right sided electro diagnostic studies were approved per chart review. Left sided studies are not indicated. As such, this request is not medically necessary a time as there is no suspicion for neurologic dysfunction on the left side.

Nerve conduction study left lower extremity QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS, Nerve Conduction and EMG studies can be considered to help identify subtle neurologic dysfunction. These studies can be indicated to identify causes of pain that include radiculopathy, and compression or entrapment neuropathies. They are warranted after failure of conservative management for 4-6 weeks. The injured worker is noted to have obvious radicular pain, and his symptoms are affecting the right side. Right sided electro diagnostic studies were approved per chart review. Left sided studies are not indicated. As such, this request is not medically necessary a time as there is no suspicion for neurologic dysfunction on the left side.

Urine toxicology testing QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Drug testing Page(s): 94-95.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Drug Screening Section 2009 edition.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS Drug Screening section, Chronic Pain 2009 Guidelines, urine drug screening can be considered to monitor for abuse in those who are taking high risk, addictive narcotic pain medications. This injured worker is not noted to be on any medications presently. There is no mention of his being at high risk for abuse of narcotic or other highly addictive medications prone to abuse. As such, this request is not medically necessary at this time.