

Case Number:	CM15-0124737		
Date Assigned:	07/09/2015	Date of Injury:	09/10/1996
Decision Date:	08/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/08/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/29/2015

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: Massachusetts

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

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 71 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/10/96. The injured worker has laryngeal spasm and has difficulty with phonation interfering with his communication. The diagnoses have included spasmodic dysphonia. Treatment to date has included injection to the vocal chords that has been rated as very effective. The request was for laryngeal scope, electromyography guidance, botox treatment every 3 months.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Laryngeal Scope-EMG Guidance-Botox Treatment Every 3 Months: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Matrka, Laura. "Paradoxical Vocal Fold Movement Disorder." Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America, 47.1 (2014): page 135-146.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Otolaryngologic Clinics Of North America. Laryngeal Dystonia. Phonosurgery. February 2006. Number 1. 39.

Decision rationale: The claimant has a remote history of a work-related injury and continues to be treated for spasmodic dysphonia. He received Botox injections ranging from every 3.5 to 7 months with reported benefit. When seen, speech and language were normal. He has spasms when vocalizing. Botox injection every three months was requested. Botox injections have been shown to be effective for the treatment of spasmodic dysphonia. The duration of benefit after a Botox injection is variable and this claimant has received injections ranging from every 3.5 to 7 months. Requesting an injection every three months prospectively without a reassessment of his condition prior to the request is not appropriate or considered medically necessary.