MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0175417		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2015	Date of Injury:	05/16/2015
Decision Date:	10/29/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/05/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/04/2015

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: Illinois
Certification(s)/Specialty: Ophthalmology

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 46 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on May 16, 2015, when a piece of metal broke off and went into the right eye. A review of the medical records indicates that the injured worker is undergoing treatment for status post ruptured globe repair, pars plana Vitrectomy (PPV), intraocular foreign body removal, silicone oil implantation right eye for metallic intraocular foreign body, ruptured globe and retinal detachment of the right eye. On July 22, 2015, the injured worker reported right eye pain and discomfort starting 2-3 weeks prior with both eyes feeling tired constantly, and small bubbles-floaters noted in the right eye with occasional flashes. The Treating Physician's report dated July 22, 2015, noted the injured worker using prednisone, Dorzolamide-Timolol, and Alphagan eye drops. The Physician noted the retina was attached, the intraocular pressure was good, and the injured worker was to continue the eye drops. The treatment plan was noted to include a pars plana Vitrectomy (PPV) with oil removal of the right eye. The request for authorization dated July 29, 2015, requested a Vitrectomy with Pars Plana, Silicone Removal, Endolaser and Silicone Implant. The Utilization Review (UR) dated August 5, 2015, non-certified the request for a Vitrectomy with Pars Plana, Silicone Removal, Endolaser and Silicone Implant.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Vitrectomy with Pars Plana, Silicone Removal, Endolaser and Silicone Implant:
Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Eye Chapter (Online Version) Vitrectomy.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Pattern.

Decision rationale: This patient has successfully undergone a ruptured globe repair and has silicone oil inside the eye. The standard of care is to remove silicone oil after the retina has remained attached for some time (since the oil can cause cataract, glaucoma, etc). The proposed procedure is to remove the silicone oil via the pars plana vitrectomy. This procedure is appropriate and medically necessary for this patient.