

Case Number:	CM15-0175497		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2015	Date of Injury:	12/22/2014
Decision Date:	10/26/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/19/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/06/2015

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, North Carolina
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 45 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on December 22, 2014. The injured worker was evaluated on August 5, 2015. He reported that he had abdominal pain and rectal bleeding since May of 2015. His medications included omeprazole. On physical examination the injured worker had suprapubic tenderness on palpation. The injured worker was diagnosed as having gastritis, constipation and abdominal pain. Treatment to date has included omeprazole. A request for authorization for UGI Endoscopy was received on August 13, 2015. On August 19, 2015, the Utilization Review physician determined that UGI Endoscopy was not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

UGI endoscopy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (The role of endoscopy in the management of obscure GI bleeding.).

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM/ODG do not address the role of upper endoscopy in cases of abdominal pain and rectal bleeding. This patient has a history of constipation/gastritis and H pylori infection. He is taking omeprazole. He has had no history of weight loss or family history of GI disease. The color and quantity of blood was not documented in the records. There is no differential diagnosis of possible causes of rectal bleeding. The physical examination is negative with the exception of suprapubic tenderness. There is no record of a digital rectal exam or hemocult of the stool. The patient's hemoglobin is normal at 15. Due to the above findings and lack of documentation of pertinent issues, the request for an upper endoscopy is not medically necessary or appropriate.