

Case Number:	CM15-0091865		
Date Assigned:	05/18/2015	Date of Injury:	03/28/2012
Decision Date:	06/17/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/07/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/12/2015

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, Florida, 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 injured worker is a 44 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 03/28/2012. Current diagnoses include left shoulder impingement syndrome, lumbar disc disease, and left hand hematoma. Previous treatments included medication management and epidural block. Report dated 03/11/2015 noted that the injured worker presented for follow up after having an epidural block last month with no relief, and developed pain and swelling in the left hand following placement of an IV for the epidural. Pain level was not included. Physical examination was positive for low back tenderness, tenderness in the left palm, and no carpal tunnel syndrome. The treatment plan included following up with pain management to discuss facet injection and request for hand consult for the left hand pain and swelling following IV placement. Disputed treatments include a consultation with a hand specialist for the left hand and consultation with a spine specialist for the lumbar spine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Consultation with a hand specialist, left hand: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127.

Decision rationale: Technically, ACOEM Chapter 7 is not within the MTUS collection; therefore, it is more appropriately cited under the "Other Guidelines" categorization. This claimant was injured over three years ago, and has shoulder impingement, lumbar disc disease, and reportedly a left hand hematoma. An ESI gave no relief. There is tenderness to palpation to various areas. The pain management is for facet injection discussion, and the hand consult for hand swelling post IV placement. ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, Page 127, state that the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. A referral may be for consultation to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness for return to work. A consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity, but may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. This request for the consult fails to specify the concerns to be addressed in the independent or expert assessment, including the relevant medical and non-medical issues, diagnosis, causal relationship, prognosis, temporary or permanent impairment, work capability, clinical management, and treatment options. At present, the request is not medically necessary.

Consultation with a spine specialist, lumbar spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127.

Decision rationale: Technically, ACOEM Chapter 7 is not within the MTUS collection; therefore, it is more appropriately cited under the "Other Guidelines" categorization. As shared in a separate review, this claimant was injured over three years ago, and has reported shoulder impingement, lumbar disc disease, and reportedly a left hand hematoma. An ESI gave no relief. There is tenderness to palpation to various areas. The pain management is for facet injection discussion, and the hand consult for hand swelling post IV placement. ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, Page 127, state that the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. A referral may be for consultation to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness for return to work. A consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity, but may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. This request for the consult fails to specify the concerns to be addressed in the independent or expert assessment, including the relevant medical and non-medical issues, diagnosis, causal relationship, prognosis,

temporary or permanent impairment, work capability, clinical management, and treatment options. At present, the request is not medically necessary.