

Case Number:	CM15-0093721		
Date Assigned:	05/20/2015	Date of Injury:	12/15/2003
Decision Date:	06/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/14/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/14/2015

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
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Emergency 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 54-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on December 15, 2003. The injured worker was diagnosed as having hand arthralgia. Treatment to date has included diagnostic nerve blocks, surgery and medication. A progress note dated February 23, 2015 the injured worker received second diagnostic nerve blocks of the left wrist. The blocks produced relief of pain. There is numbness and deep aching noted of the ring and little finger. It is documented the blocks are diagnostic in nature and not steroid.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal radial sensory nerve and left dorsal hand: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Nerve Blocks, page 56.

Decision rationale: The requested 2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal radial sensory nerve and left dorsal hand, is not medically necessary. Per CA MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, Nerve Blocks, Page 56 note that such blocks are not recommended unless all other intervention have been tried and failed. The injured worker was having hand arthralgia. Treatment to date has included diagnostic nerve blocks, surgery and medication. A progress note dated February 23, 2015 the injured worker received second diagnostic nerve blocks of the left wrist. The blocks produced relief of pain. There is numbness and deep aching noted of the ring and little finger. It is documented the blocks are diagnostic in nature and not steroid. The treating physician has not documented the medical necessity for another set of diagnostic nerve blocks if the prior set was reported as producing a positive effect. The criteria noted above not having been met, 2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal radial sensory nerve and left dorsal hand is not medically necessary.

2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal ulnar sensory nerve and left dorsal hand: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Nerve Blocks, page 56.

Decision rationale: The requested 2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal ulnar sensory nerve and left dorsal hand, is not medically necessary. Per CA MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, Nerve Blocks, Page 56 note that such blocks are not recommended unless all other intervention have been tried and failed. The injured worker was having hand arthralgia. Treatment to date has included diagnostic nerve blocks, surgery and medication. A progress note dated February 23, 2015 the injured worker received second diagnostic nerve blocks of the left wrist. The blocks produced relief of pain. There is numbness and deep aching noted of the ring and little finger. It is documented the blocks are diagnostic in nature and not steroid. The treating physician has not documented the medical necessity for another set of diagnostic nerve blocks if the prior set was reported as producing a positive effect. The criteria noted above not having been met, 2 injections 3cc of Lidocaine and 3cc of Marcaine for diagnostic blocks to the dorsal ulnar sensory nerve and left dorsal hand is not medically necessary.