

Case Number:	CM15-0096555		
Date Assigned:	05/26/2015	Date of Injury:	09/09/2010
Decision Date:	07/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/29/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/19/2015

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 71 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/09/2010. She reported a slip, fall with injury to the left shoulder, and low back. Diagnoses include sacroiliitis, pain in joint involving the shoulder, thoracic or lumbar radiculitis, and lumbago. She has undergone a lumbar foraminotomy in 2014. Treatments to date include Tylenol #3, Trazodone HCL, Zoloft and therapeutic joint injection, epidural steroid injections, physical therapy and rest. Currently, she complained of right sided low back and buttock pain with radiation to the right hip. On 4/13/15, the physical examination documented painful right SI joint and positive right side straight leg raise test with mild lumbar muscle spasms. There were multiple positive provocative findings including positive FABER and Gaeslen's exams. The plan of care included right sacroiliac (SI) joint injection under sedation with associated services including a pre-operative medical clearance to include History and Physical (H&P), electrocardiogram, chest x-ray and laboratory evaluation. This appeal was for the associated services including the H & P, EKG, Chest x-ray and labs.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-op medical clearance to include: H & P (history and physical): Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Preoperative testing, general.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: The requested Pre-op medical clearance to include: H & P (history and physical), is medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, APG I Plus, 2009 and ODG -TWC; ODG Treatment; Integrated Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines are silent regarding this request. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> "a. Patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than age 40 and females if greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. b. Patients having major neurosurgical, abdominal, orthopedic, thoracic, cardiac, or vascular surgery usually require an ECG, CXR, lytes, bun, creatinine, LFT's, and PT/PTT. Refer to the preoperative form for lab testing indications for less major procedures. c. Patients having artificial material inserted (e.g. joint replacements) require a urine analysis and culture. d. Patients less than age 40 who are not in categories b or c do not require laboratory testing." The injured worker has right sided low back and buttock pain with radiation to the right hip. On 4/13/15, the physical examination documented painful right SI joint and positive right side straight leg raise test with mild lumbar muscle spasms. There were multiple positive provocative findings including positive FABER and Gaeslen's exams. The plan of care included right sacroiliac (SI) joint injection under sedation with associated services including a pre-operative medical clearance to include History and Physical (H & P), electrocardiogram, chest x-ray and laboratory evaluation. The referenced guideline would meet the criteria for a history and physical, CBC, and EKG, but not a chest x-ray or other labs. The criteria noted above having been met, Pre-op medical clearance to include: H & P (history and physical) is medically necessary.

Pre-op medical clearance to include: EKG (electrocardiogram): Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Preoperative testing, general, preoperative electrocardiogram.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: The requested Pre-op medical clearance to include: EKG (electrocardiogram), is medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, APG I Plus, 2009 and ODG -TWC; ODG Treatment; Integrated Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines are silent regarding this

request. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> "a. Patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than age 40 and females if greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. b. Patients having major neurosurgical, abdominal, orthopedic, thoracic, cardiac, or vascular surgery usually require an ECG, CXR, lytes, bun, creatinine, LFT's, and PT/PTT. Refer to the preoperative form for lab testing indications for less major procedures. c. Patients having artificial material inserted (e.g. joint replacements) require a urine analysis and culture. d. Patients less than age 40 who are not in categories b or c do not require laboratory testing." The injured worker has right sided low back and buttock pain with radiation to the right hip. On 4/13/15, the physical examination documented painful right SI joint and positive right side straight leg raise test with mild lumbar muscle spasms. There were multiple positive provocative findings including positive FABER and Gaeslen's exams. The plan of care included right sacroiliac (SI) joint injection under sedation with associated services including a pre-operative medical clearance to include History and Physical (H & P), electrocardiogram, chest x-ray and laboratory evaluation. The referenced guideline would meet the criteria for a history and physical, CBC, and EKG, but not a chest x-ray or other labs. The criteria noted above having been met, Pre-op medical clearance to include: EKG (electro-cardiogram) is medically necessary.

Pre-op medical clearance to include: Chest x-ray: 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), Low Back Chapter, Preoperative testing, general.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: The requested Pre-op medical clearance to include: Chest x-ray is not medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, APG I Plus, 2009 and ODG -TWC; ODG Treatment; Integrated Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines are silent regarding this request. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> "a. Patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than age 40 and females if greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. b. Patients having major neurosurgical, abdominal, orthopedic, thoracic, cardiac, or vascular surgery usually require an ECG, CXR, lytes, bun, creatinine, LFT's, and PT/PTT. Refer to the preoperative form for lab testing indications for less major procedures. c. Patients having artificial material inserted (e.g. joint replacements) require a urine analysis and culture. d. Patients less than age 40 who are not in categories b or c do not require laboratory testing." The injured worker has right sided low back and buttock pain with radiation to the right hip. On 4/13/15, the physical examination documented painful right SI joint and positive right side straight leg raise test with mild lumbar muscle spasms. There were multiple positive provocative findings including positive FABER and Gaeslen's exams. The plan of care included right sacroiliac (SI) joint injection under sedation with associated services including a pre-operative medical clearance to include History and Physical (H& P), electrocardiogram, chest

x-ray and laboratory evaluation. The referenced guideline would meet the criteria for a history and physical, CBC, and EKG, but not a chest x-ray or other labs. The criteria noted above not having been met, Pre-op medical clearance to include: Chest x-ray is not medically necessary.

Pre-op medical clearance to include: labs: 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), Low Back Chapter, Preoperative testing, general, preoperative lab testing.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: The requested Pre-op medical clearance to include: labs, is not medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, APG I Plus, 2009 and ODG -TWC; ODG Treatment; Integrated Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines are silent regarding this request. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx> "a. Patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than age 40 and females if greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. b. Patients having major neurosurgical, abdominal, orthopedic, thoracic, cardiac, or vascular surgery usually require an ECG, CXR, lytes, bun, creatinine, LFT's, and PT/PTT. Refer to the preoperative form for lab testing indications for less major procedures. c. Patients having artificial material inserted (e.g. joint replacements) require a urine analysis and culture. d. Patients less than age 40 who are not in categories b or c do not require laboratory testing." The injured worker has right sided low back and buttock pain with radiation to the right hip. On 4/13/15, the physical examination documented painful right SI joint and positive right side straight leg raise test with mild lumbar muscle spasms. There were multiple positive provocative findings including positive FABER and Gaeslen's exams. The plan of care included right sacroiliac (SI) joint injection under sedation with associated services including a pre-operative medical clearance to include History and Physical (H&P), electrocardiogram, chest x-ray and laboratory evaluation. The referenced guideline would meet the criteria for a history and physical, CBC, and EKG, but not a chest x-ray or other labs.