

Case Number:	CM14-0141749		
Date Assigned:	09/10/2014	Date of Injury:	01/13/2010
Decision Date:	10/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/02/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in District of Columbia, Virginia. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This is a 60 year old patient who sustained injury on Jan 13 2010. He was seen by [REDACTED] on Jun 13 2014 for high blood pressure and was ordered to have testing with blood and urine tests, an EKG and echocardiogram.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CBC, Lipid Panel, Total T3, T4, T3 Uptake, T3 Free, Free Thyroxine, TSH, Venipuncture, BMP, Hepatic Func Panel, Uric Acid, Ggtp, Serum Ferr, Vitd; 25 Hydroxy, Apalipoprotein A, Apalipoprotein B, Glyco Hemoglobin A1c, Urine Creatinine, Urine:
Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines uncontrolled hypertension Page(s): 70. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/241381-workup#aw2aab6b5b2> <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/overview-of-hypertension-in-adults>

Decision rationale: This patient was diagnosed with high blood pressure and was found to have elevated pressures in an outpatient setting. MTUS does not specifically address uncontrolled

hypertension and the diagnosis steps which would be entailed. Therefore, alternate sources were sought. Based on the clinical documentation provided, this testing would be medically necessary.

ECHO W/ DOPPLER: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/1_99/0008.1

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Clinical documentation provided

Decision rationale: This patient was diagnosed with high blood pressure and was found to have elevated pressures in an outpatient setting. MTUS does not specifically address uncontrolled hypertension and the diagnosis steps which would be entailed. Therefore, alternate sources were sought. Based on the clinical documentation provided, this testing would be medically necessary.

TOTAL BODY PLETHYSMOGRAPHY: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pulmonary (updated 7/29/14)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) pulmonary function testing, Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence:
<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/overview-of-hypertension-in-adults#H21>

Decision rationale: This patient was diagnosed with high blood pressure and was found to have elevated pressures in an outpatient setting. MTUS does not specifically address uncontrolled hypertension and the diagnosis steps which would be entailed. ODG suggests plethysmography for management of chronic lung disease. Therefore, alternate sources were sought. Based on the clinical documentation provided, this testing would not be medically necessary.