

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review
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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/7/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	5/31/2013
Date of Injury:	2/22/2013
IMR Application Received:	6/13/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0000675

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for 12 physical therapy sessions **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 6/13/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 5/31/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 8/7/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for 12 physical therapy sessions **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in California. 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Case Summary:

Disclaimer: The Utilization review did not contain a clinical summary.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application for Independent Medical Review received on 06/13/2013
- Utilization Review Determination from [REDACTED] (dated 05/31/2013)
- Employee medical records from Claims Administrator [REDACTED] (dated 08/15/2013)
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for 12 physical therapy sessions:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Guidelines, pages 98-99 which are part of the Medical Treatment Utilization Guidelines (MTUS).

Rationale for the Decision:

Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines indicate there should be allowance for fading of treatment frequency from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less, plus active, self-directed home physical medicine. For myalgia and myositis, unspecified, 9 to 10 visits over 8 weeks is reasonable and for neuralgia, neuritis, and radiculitis, 8 to 10 visits over 4 weeks is considered reasonable per MTUS. The medical records provided for review indicate this employee has had 13 physical therapy visits. The records do not describe objective evidence such as motor weakness, reflex changes, sensory changes, and/or range of motion deficits to support continued physical therapy at this time. The guideline criteria have not been met. **The request for 12 physical therapy sessions is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/slm

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.