

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/19/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/9/2013
Date of Injury:	8/12/2012
IMR Application Received:	7/23/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0002662

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for an **H-wave unit for 2 months** is not medically necessary and appropriate.

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 7/23/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/9/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 7/25/2013. 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 an **H-wave unit for 2 months 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 Occupational Medicine 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 following case summary was taken directly from the utilization review denial/modification dated July 9, 2013.

“The claimant is an [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for chronic hand and thumb pain, reportedly associated with an industrial injury of August 12, 2012. Thus far she has been treated with the following: analgesic medications, splinting, unspecified amounts of occupational therapy; right thumb ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery on April 24, 2013; and extensive periods of time off of work. The most recent progress report of June 19, 2013, is notable for comments that the claimant started occupational therapy on June 12, has persistent pain, stiffness, and swelling with limited wrist range of motion, and receives treatment recommendations which include continued physical therapy while using Flexeril for pain relief. The claimant is given work restrictions, which essentially result in her being taken out of the workplace.”

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 7/23/13)
- Utilization Review Determination from [REDACTED]
- Medical Records from [REDACTED]
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for an H-wave unit for 2 months:

Medical Treatment Guideline(s) Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision:

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, H-Wave Stimulation section, which is part of the (MTUS).

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, TENS, pg. 114, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state H wave may be considered if used as an adjunct to a program of evidence-based functional restoration, and only following failure of initially recommended conservative care, including recommended physical therapy (i.e., exercise) and medications, plus transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS). There is no documentation of a TENS trial, functional restoration program being initiated. **The request for an H-wave unit for 2 months 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

/ldh

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.