

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

Independent Medical Review

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**Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination**

Dated: 11/7/2013

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/24/2013
Date of Injury:	11/28/2012
IMR Application Received:	7/25/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0003585

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for a **TENS unit rental for 30 days is medically necessary and appropriate.**

## INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 7/25/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/24/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 7/31/2013. 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 a **TENS unit rental for 30 days is 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 Preventive Medicine and 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.

### Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

██████████ is a 51 year old (DOB: ██████████) female with a date of injury on 11/28/2012. The mechanism of injury is not noted. She is currently not working. The carrier has accepted the claim for the low back, both ankles, left lower leg and both wrists.

### 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 of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

### 1) Regarding the request for a TENS unit rental for 30 days:

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

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, Transcutaneous electrotherapy, pgs. 114-121, which are part of the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS).

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, Criteria for the use of TENS, pg. 116, which is part of the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS).

Rationale for the Decision:

Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend the criteria for usage of TENS unit include evidence of chronic intractable pain of greater than three months' duration that has proven recalcitrant to other appropriate pain modalities, including first-line oral analgesic medications. In this case, the documentation on file does seemingly suggest the failure of conservative treatment. The employee remains off of work, has seemingly tried analgesic medications, manipulative therapy, and has transferred care to and from various providers in various specialties. The employee has failed to respond favorably to the same. Given the failure of first-line modalities, a trial of TENS unit may be indicated. The guideline criteria have been met. **The request for a TENS unit rental for 30 days is 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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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.