

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 10/31/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/22/2013
Date of Injury:	4/4/2005
IMR Application Received:	7/29/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0004100

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for purchase of a home H wave device **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 7/29/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/22/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 8/8/2013. 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 purchase of a home H wave device **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.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The patient is a 58-year-old female with a date of injury of 4/4/2005 who sustained an injury of the low back. The patient has undergone L4-5 decompression laminectomy and fusion L4-5 level. The records indicate diagnoses include lumbar spondylothesis and lumbar radiculopathy. The patient has persistent low back and radicular pain and is taking NSAIDs, muscle relaxants, Ambien, Lidoderm patches and Cymbalta and has been recommended Epidural steroid injection (ESI) and an H-wave unit.

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 [REDACTED]
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for purchase of a home H wave device :

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, Electrotherapy, which is part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, H-wave stimulation, page 117, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The Chronic Pain guidelines state H-Wave is not recommended as an isolated intervention. A one month home-based trial of H-Wave may be considered as an adjunct to a program of functional restoration after failure of conservative care

including physical therapy, medications and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS). The submitted medical records do not indicate that the employee has tried and failed the use of a TENS unit. In addition, the records do not indicate that H-Wave treatment has resulted in a reduction in medication or an improvement in function. The medical records indicate the employee continues to take extensive medications. **The request for a purchase of a home H-wave device 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

/db

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.