

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

Independent Medical Review

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MAXIMUS  
Federal Services



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**Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination**

Dated: 11/22/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/22/2013
Date of Injury:	8/13/2008
IMR Application Received:	8/5/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0007710

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for home traction unit-lumbar spine **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

## INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/5/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/22/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/9/2013. 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 home traction unit-lumbar spine is not **medically necessary and appropriate**.

### **Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:**

The independent Expert Reviewer who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is a Licensed Chiropractor, 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 39 year old female injured on 08/13/2008. She is post a lumbar fusion surgery L5-S1 10/31/2012. A request for a home traction unit has been made. The patient complains of pain and stiffness. Paraspinal muscles are found to be hypertonic. Current complaint is result of a chronic condition.

### **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 home traction unit-lumbar spine:**

#### The Medical Treatment Guidelines Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Low Back Complaints (ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2004), Chapter 12), which is a part of MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Low Back Complaints (ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2004), Chapter 12), pg. 300, traction and pg. 308, physical treatment methods, which is a part of MTUS.

#### Rationale for the Decision:

MTUS guidelines do not indicate any benefits in the use of a traction unit for chronic pain. In the ACOEM Guidelines on Pgs. 300 and 308, traction is not recommended and has no evidence to have any long lasting benefits. This is

listed for post-surgery recommendations. **The request for home traction unit-lumbar spine 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, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

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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.