

Case Number:	CM13-0014867		
Date Assigned:	10/07/2013	Date of Injury:	02/18/2009
Decision Date:	01/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/09/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/22/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Ohio and Texas. 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 physician 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 disputed items/services.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

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IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

Postoperative physical therapy two (2) times a week for three (3) weeks: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 271, Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 22.

Decision rationale: The Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines recommend postsurgical treatment following the trigger finger operation at 9 visits over 8 weeks, with a postsurgical physical medicine treatment period of 4 months. The guidelines also specify that an initial course of

therapy should be one-half the number of visits specified in the general course of therapy for the specific surgery. Therefore, a request for 2 visits a week for 3 weeks exceeds the recommended initial course of therapy for the surgery, which would be four (4) sessions. Therefore, the request is non-certified.