

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0015524		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/08/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/19/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/09/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/24/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/23/2013

### 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 Internal Medicine and Cardiology, has a subspecialty in Fellowship trained in Cardiovascular Disease and is licensed to practice in 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. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

California MTUS and ACOEM both do not address pulmonary rehabilitation; therefore, Official Disability Guidelines has been referred to in this case. According to ODG, for patients with COPD with a minimum of 6 to 12 weeks, it notes that education programs are an integral part of pulmonary rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, it states that sessions are allowed for a fading of treatment frequency at 2 to 3 times a week for 6 to 12 weeks with longer durations (another 4 to 8 weeks) for well-motivated patients, and patients who could not achieve the same results at home on their own, or in individuals in whom there is rapidly diminishing results. Although this patient has had a history of chronic issues with bronchitis and pulmonary issues in general, the requesting physician failed to document how many sessions he would like the patient to undergo. Therefore, it is unclear whether or not he would be requesting an excess of sessions allowed by Official Disability Guidelines. Therefore, the request cannot be considered medically necessary at this time.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Pulmonary rehab at Monterey Community Center:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation PDG-TWC Pulmonary Chapter Procedure Summary..

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pulmonary Chapter, Physical Therapy and Respiratory muscle training.

**Decision rationale:** California MTUS and ACOEM both do not address pulmonary rehabilitation; therefore, Official Disability Guidelines has been referred to in this case. According to ODG, for patients with COPD with a minimum of 6 to 12 weeks, it notes that education programs are an integral part of pulmonary rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, it states that sessions are allowed for a fading of treatment frequency at 2 to 3 times a week for 6 to 12 weeks with longer durations (another 4 to 8 weeks) for well-motivated patients, and patients who could not achieve the same results at home on their own, or in individuals in whom there is rapidly diminishing results. Although this patient has had a history of chronic issues with bronchitis and pulmonary issues in general, the requesting physician failed to document how many sessions he would like the patient to undergo. Therefore, it is unclear whether or not he would be requesting an excess of sessions allowed by Official Disability Guidelines. Therefore, the request cannot be considered medically necessary at this time.