MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM13-0019755		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	01/08/2013
Decision Date:	01/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/16/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/03/2013

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Diseases and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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:

The patient is a 48 year old male, who is left hand dominant. He had a date of injury which was recorded as 10/15/12 and was a repetitive trauma type injury to his right shoulder where he received physical and received a subacromial injection of lidocaine, Marcaine and Kenalog without improvement of his shoulder pain. On the date of 1/08/13, he sustained a new injury to the right shoulder. when he tripped over a ladder with the right ankle and fell directly upon his right shoulder on a concrete floor, this has resulted in not only pain laterally which was similar to what he experienced from his previous injury but also more posterior. On 7/8/13, the patient underwent a right shoulder manipulation under anesthesia, right shoulder arthroscopy, right shoulder glenohumeral synovectomy, right shoulder posterior and anterior labral debridement, right shoulder two-anchor SLAP repair, right shoulder subacromial decompression and bursectomy, and right shoulder rotator cuff repair. The request of post operative 28 day rental of a GameReady vasocompression/cold therapy unit was denied and is the subject of this review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

28 day rental of a GameReady vasocompression/cold therapy unit: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Shoulder Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 338. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Knee Chapter

Decision rationale: The request of a 28 day rental of a Game Ready vasocompression/cold therapy unit is not medically necessary per ODG guidelines as written. The Game Ready device combines continuous cryotherapy and pneumatic compression. The MTUS guidelines are silent on this specific issue. There is mention in the MTUS of use of an at-home local applications of cold packs in first few days of acute complaints, and thereafter, heat pack applications The ODG states that continuous flow cryotherapy is recommended as an option after surgery, but not for nonsurgical treatment. Postoperative use generally may be up to 7 days, including home use. The request as written for a 28 day rental exceeds guideline recommendations and therefore is not medically necessary. Additionally, the treatment of a rental game ready unit is not medically necessary because ODG guidelines state that the available scientific literature is insufficient to document that the use of continuous-flow cooling systems (versus ice packs) is associated with a benefit beyond convenience and patient compliance (but these may be worthwhile benefits) in the outpatient setting. Furthermore the ODG states while there are studies on Continuous-flow cryotherapy, there are no published high quality studies on the Game Ready device or any other combined system.