

Case Number:	CM13-0020455		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	05/17/2013
Decision Date:	02/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/19/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/05/2013

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management, and is licensed to practice in Georgia. 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 claimant is a 49-year-old male presenting with chronic headaches, nausea and vomiting, and significant photosensitivity following head trauma while at work on May 17, 2013. The claimant complains of headache, described as sharp and moderately severe. The physical exam showed the patient was severely disorganized with tenderness over the temporalis muscle, popping in jaw, and poor balance. The claimant was diagnosed with closed head injury and concussion with increased symptoms because of prior traumatic [REDACTED] injury with features suggesting Irlen syndrome, bilateral temporomandibular joint syndrome and a labyrinthine concussion, and history of posttraumatic stress disorder with treatment at the [REDACTED]. The medical records note that the claimant is temporarily totally disabled. The claim was submitted for a comprehensive evaluation at the [REDACTED] program for brain injuries, to examine balance and cognition to see whether any specific recommendations can be made for rehabilitation from his injury.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

[REDACTED] Brain Injury Program: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OGD Head

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 49.

Decision rationale: The [REDACTED] Brain Injury Program is a functional restoration program that is ordered by the primary treating physician to perform neurophysiological evaluations of the claimant's balance and cognition for recommendations on rehabilitation from his injury. Per California MTUS, page 49, functional restoration programs are "recommended, although research is still ongoing as to how to most appropriately screen for inclusion in these programs. Functional restoration programs (FRPs), a type of treatment included in the category of interdisciplinary pain programs, were originally developed by [REDACTED]. FRPs were designed to use a medically directed, interdisciplinary pain management approach geared specifically to patients with chronic disabling occupational musculoskeletal disorders. These programs emphasize the importance of function over the elimination of pain. FRPs incorporate components of exercise progression with disability management and psychosocial intervention. Long-term evidence suggests that the benefit of these programs diminishes over time, but still remains positive when compared to cohorts that did not receive an intensive program." [REDACTED] Brain Injury Program is not medically necessary because the main purpose of the program would be to restore the claimant's function, and not to perform further evaluations as recommended by the primary treating physician.