

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0021266		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/11/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/29/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/27/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/19/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/06/2013

### 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 Occupational Medicine, 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 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 57-year-old male with a doi on 6/29/10. Doctor's note on 7/11/13 reveals patient reports headaches and increased tinnitus after sudden loud noises. Examination reveals right ear with severe exostosis and 60% occluded. Left ear moderately severe exostosis and 50% occluded. Diagnosis is tinnitus, sensorineural hearing loss, and external auditory canal exostosis. 9/3/13 PTP note reveals ringing in his ears with occasional dizziness due to vestibular nerve damage with no real effective treatment. Patient reports his tinnitus, dizziness and headaches doing better over last month. The patient also has orthopedic injuries. The request is for amplification with tinnitus treatment with widex behind the car hearing devices with built in zen sound therapy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Amplification with Tinnitus Treatment with Widex behind the Car Hearing Devices with built in Zen Sound Therapy:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Online Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Medicare (CMS, 2006) CMS Benefit Category, Durable Medical Equipment

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS does not have guidelines regarding tinnitus masking devices. ACOEM or ODG does not have recommendations. Medicare (CMS, 2006) considers tinnitus masking as experimental because there is lack of evidence based medicine studies to support this treatment. As government guidelines do not support this treatment, it is not medically necessary.