

Case Number:	CM13-0022547		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	09/26/2010
Decision Date:	03/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/10/2013

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, and is licensed to practice in California, Texas, and Wisconsin. 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:

A 32 year old male with DOI 11/1/10 to the lower back. Patient was under psychiatric care. Complained of lower back pain (LBP). Handwritten notes were illegible. Dx: HNP L4/5 L5-S1. EMG/NCS 7/15/11 was normal. AME supplemental on 7/3/13 recommended good home exercise program. There was no mention of supervised PT or pool therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

The request for Physical Therapy with pool therapy x 12 for low back pain: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Aquatic therapy.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

Decision rationale: It is unclear from the clinical notes why patient would need supervised PT or pool therapy 3-4 years after the initial injury. AME only recommended home therapy which is in line with MTUS guidelines. Therefore request for additional PT and pool therapy is non-certified.