

Case Number:	CM13-0022630		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2013	Date of Injury:	10/10/2008
Decision Date:	01/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/16/2013
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 Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 pt is a 56 y.o. female with a h/o an injury 10/10/08. She has a h/o/disc disease with h/o back operation on two occasions. She has chronic low back pain, and lumbar radiculopathy. Pt. has received norco, neurontin, xanax and ambient. ON a visit 5/21/13, pt was referred to a pain management doctor. A PT also recommended a TENS unit. A utilization reviewer denied this service 8/16/13. An appeal was made 10/10/13.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Tens Unit (one month rental): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Low Back Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 114-116.

Decision rationale: MTUS guidelines states that a TENS unit may be tried for neuropathic pain from diabetic neuropathy, and post herpetic neuralgia, phantom limb pain MS and spasticity in spinal cord injury. Evidence is lacking concerning effectiveness. TENS does not appear to have an impact on perceived disability or long term pain.