

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0026325		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/22/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/21/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/12/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/04/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/18/2013

### 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, has a subspecialty in neuromuscular medicine, 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.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This is a 57-year-old right-hand dominant administrative assistant who basically slipped and fell hurting her left shoulder. She was taken to the OR at [REDACTED] on November 23, 2011, by [REDACTED]. She had a hemiarthroplasty placed, subsequently she dislocated. She was taken back to surgery on December 09, 2011, by [REDACTED], arthroscopically did a Bankart repair. She has been struggling, has done poorly, stiff painful shoulder. PAST MEDICAL HISTORY: She is a diabetic, hypertensive, hypothyroid. Per 7/24/13 [REDACTED] note: " my plan is to take out her hemiarthroplasty, take out the cement. The hardest part is removing the cement. Yesterday I got lucky, I got the whole plug out one piece but typically I needed to use the ultrasound guided device called the Oscar to remove the cement under fluoroscopy control. Once I get everything out, I will reimaging this on multiple frozen sections and my plan is to do hemiarthroplasty with spacer, wait for cultures. I do believe that she probably has an infection of Propionibacterium acnes but it is one of the bacteria that labs are usually negative as well as frozen sections but we will still do labs and frozen sections during surgery." Documentation submitted is not clear on dates or details of further surgical procedures. She had an EMG/NCV (electromyogram/nerve conduction velocity study) by [REDACTED] which shows severe bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome as well as ulnar compression on the right.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) unit, with lead wires, electrodes, and batteries for the right shoulder:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 115-117.

**Decision rationale:** The Physician Reviewer's decision rationale: According to the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines , a home-based treatment trial of one month may be appropriate for neuropathic pain and CRPS II (conditions that have limited published evidence for the use of TENS as noted below), and for CRPS I (with basically no literature to support use). The TENS unit, lead wires, electrodes, and batteries for right shoulder is not medically necessary according to the recommendations stated in the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines. There is no documentation of a one month trial period with ongoing treatment modalities within a functional restoration approach. There is no documentation of significant functional improvement with a TENS trial. There is no documentation of whether this is a rental or purchase. The Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend "A treatment plan including the specific short- and long-term goals of treatment with the TENS unit should be submitted." The request for a TENS unit, with lead wires, electrodes, and batteries for the right shoulder is not medically necessary or appropriate.