

Case Number:	CM13-0032038		
Date Assigned:	02/20/2014	Date of Injury:	03/04/2008
Decision Date:	04/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/04/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is licensed in Psychology 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 expert 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 43 year-old male with a date of injury of 3/4/08. According to medical reports, the claimant sustained a closed head, intracranial brain injury when he was struck in the back of the head by a large electrical panel while working. He also sustained orthopedic injuries to his neck and left shoulder. According to treating neuropsychologist, [REDACTED], the claimant is diagnosed with: (1) Cognitive disorder NOS (due to head trauma); (2) Late effect of intracranial injury; and (3) Personality changes due to traumatic brain injury.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ONE HOUR COGNITIVE SKILLS TRAINING 5 DAYS/ WEEK THROUGH 09/30/13

QTY: 10.00: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS: ACOEM TREATMENT GUIDELINES,

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG) HEAD - COGNITIVE SKILLS RETAINING.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS does not address the cognitive treatment of head injury therefore, the Official Disability Guideline for cognitive skills retraining will be used as reference for this case. Based on the review of the medical records, the claimant began cognitive skills retraining with [REDACTED] on March 3, 2013, completing approximately 85 sessions through the end of August. These sessions typically occur 5X/week for one hour a day. Since the claimant has been able to demonstrate some progress and cognitive improvements, the cognitive skills training appears to be beneficial. It was reported by [REDACTED] that he was hoping to transition the claimant from in office trainings to home based trainings in preparation for the claimant to return to work. The request for an additional 6 weeks of sessions totaling 30 sessions appears reasonable as [REDACTED] helps the claimant with this transition. The ODG recommends the use of cognitive skills training when treating head injury patients. There is no specific recommendation regarding number of sessions or duration of treatment. As a result, the request for an additional 30 sessions appears reasonable and medically necessary.