

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0032461		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/10/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/06/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/24/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/05/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/08/2013

### 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 Pain Management 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:

This is a patient with a date of injury of 8/6/12. A utilization review determination dated 9/5/13 recommends non-certification of TENS unit rental x 7 days. The utilization review report is not available for review. The medical information included for review is from 2012 and not relevant to a recent request for TENS.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Decision for Rental of a TENS unit for seven days for lumbar spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): s 114-117.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for rental of a TENS unit for seven days for lumbar spine, California MTUS supports a 1-month trial of TENS for chronic intractable pain after at least 3 months and after other appropriate pain modalities have been tried (including medication) and failed. They also note that a treatment plan including the specific short- and long-term goals of treatment with the TENS unit should be submitted. Within the documentation available for review, there is documentation from 2012 identifying that the patient was provided with

chiropractic spinal manipulative therapy, lumbar traction, electrical muscle stimulation, and myofascial release techniques without benefit. However, there is no current documentation of chronic intractable pain failing appropriate conservative treatment and long-term and short-term goals for TENS. In light of the above issues, the currently requested rental of a TENS unit for seven days for lumbar spine is not medically necessary.