

Case Number:	CM13-0035615		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	10/05/2005
Decision Date:	02/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2013

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 Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in North Carolina and 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:

This is a 46-year-old man who claims back pain from work injury 10/5/2005, when he was employed as an electrician and tripped and fell. He has been diagnosed with sacroiliac joint dysfunction, and has low back pain with radiation down the posterior legs. Treatment has included steroid injections. He is requesting a lumbar traction unit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

durable medical equipment (DME) Lumbar Traction Unit: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Physical Methods and ODG-TWC

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 300.

Decision rationale: Per ACOEM Guidelines for low back pain: Traction has not been proved effective for lasting relief in treating low back pain. Because evidence is insufficient to support using vertebral axial decompression for treating low back injuries, it is not recommended.