

Case Number:	CM13-0036100		
Date Assigned:	03/21/2014	Date of Injury:	11/25/2008
Decision Date:	05/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/08/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/18/2013

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 Board Certified in Occupational Medicine, and is licensed to practice in California, Colorado, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Texas. 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 patient is a 59 year old male who was injured on 11/25/2008. The mechanism of injury is unknown. The patient underwent percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrode array, percutaneous implantation of 2nd neurostimulator electrode array (epidural); Implantation of dual Octad electrodes, and Implantable neurostimulator electrode implantation on 01/21/2014. He has had foot and ankle surgery times 3. He has had a lateral stabilization of the right ankle and excision of the exostosis dorsal aspect of the right foot. He has had an excision of the neuroma of the third interspace right foot in 2010. 10/22/2013 Medications Include: Norco Amlodipine Aspirin Glipizide Pravastatin Sodium Neurontin Pain and Spine Visit note dated 10/22/2013 indicated the patient presents for follow-up appointment. He has taken himself off the Neurontin but continues to require Norco for pain relief. He is able to take less of the sleeping medications since the implant and can fall asleep more easily now. His pain level right now is 6/10. He is experiencing a throbbing type pain located on the stump where the neuroma was excised. He has been waiting for new orthopedic shoes. He can only be on his feet for 30 minutes at a time before he has the throbbing sensation and has to sit. He is very pleased that the SCS trial and he is ready for the permanent SCS implant. Objective findings on exam revealed the bottom of his right shoe was inspected today and the heel is worn down so much that the shoe is uneven. He has incision which is healed on the dorsum of the foot and over the tarsal tunnel area. There is pain in the third interspace right foot. There is pain with extreme inversion and pain in the stump of the previously excised Neuroma upon palpation. There is vasomotor and pilomotor changes. His foot is sensitive to touch over the lateral malleolus incision. The right foot is swollen compared to the left. His wound is intact, dry, and clean. There are no signs of discharge, no odor and no erythema. The patient is diagnosed with 1) Pain in joint of ankle and foot; 2) Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy of Upper limb; and 3) Neuropathy in other diseases. The

patient is instructed to continue opiate therapy. The patient will return for follow-up and continued observation. There are no significant side effects of the opiate therapy. The patient is approved for SCS permanent implant.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PERMANENT SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANT: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Spinal Cord Stimulator - Indications..

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Ogd Pain And Low Back Chapters, Exercise.

Decision rationale: This 59 year old male with a history of 3 surgeries to his foot, CRSP of upper extremity and failed low back surgery syndrome. In addition the patient has hypertension and Diabetes. A permanent SCS implant is not appropriate without a comprehensive psychological evaluation as outlined in by CA MTUS/ODG. In addition his Hgb A1c needs to be reproted to ensure appropriate diabets control. The patient has significant functional improvement while on Norco. Normally the SCS trial is for 30 days however there apparently was a 75% improvement of pain after 7 days. This would indicate a possible placebo effect and due to improvement with PO Norco there needs to be a comprehensive Psychological assessment as described in CA MYUS/ODG. The permanent SCS is not certified paending the comprehensive Psychological evaluation. In addition the patient needs to be on an active HEP.