

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0040615		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/20/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/18/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/05/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/23/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/29/2013

### 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 Interventional Spine 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 60 year-old, female with a date of injury on 04/18/07. She has been diagnosed with rotator cuff syndrome; pelvis joint pain; joint pain in left leg; complications of joint prosthesis; nonunion of fracture. She is reported to have generalized body pain, 6-8/10 intensity including the left and right shoulders, right index finger, right elbow, right hip, left hip, and left knee. She has a wide-stance and antalgic gait with the use of crutches on both arms. She has had total hip replacements bilaterally and a left knee TKA. The IMR application shows a dispute with the 9/23/13 UR decision, which reviewed an RFA for rails for stairs at home and a cortisone injection with US guidance for trochanteric bursa. The 9/23/13 UR decision is by [REDACTED] and approves the cortisone injection, but denies the rails for home stairs. The UR decision was based on the 9/16/13 medical report from [REDACTED]

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Rails for Stairs at Home:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

**Decision rationale:** The request for the "Rails for stairs at home" appears to be from the 9/13/13 prescription. The only detail was "difficulty walking". The rails were not discussed on the 9/16/13 report. It is unknown if the rails for stairs are for inside the patient's home or outside the home. ODG for DME states: "Recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of durable medical equipment (DME) below... and Medical conditions that result in physical limitations for patients may require patient education and modifications to the home environment for prevention of injury, but environmental modifications are considered not primarily medical in nature." The term DME is defined as equipment which: (1) Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; (2) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; (3) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; & (4) Is appropriate for use in a patient's home (CMS, 2005). The rails for stairs at home do not meet the Medicare or ODG definition of DME. Rails are not primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, and they are also useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury. The request is not in accordance with ODG guidelines.