

Case Number:	CM13-0041221		
Date Assigned:	12/20/2013	Date of Injury:	06/17/2012
Decision Date:	07/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/23/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/11/2013

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 Chiropractic, has a subspecialty in Pediatric Chiropractic 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 injured worker is a 25 year old female with an original date of injury of 6/7/12. The mechanism of injury occurred when the patient was moving a 600 lb. Boat with some co-workers. The patient has been diagnosed with cervical, thoracic and lumbar sprains. The patient has had 10 of 24 authorized sessions of Physical therapy, but this was not helpful in relieving the patient's symptoms. The patient has also had 6 chiropractic treatments, but there is no indication as to efficacy of these treatments. The disputed issue is a request for 8 additional chiropractic treatments for the back. An earlier Medical Review made an adverse determination regarding this request. The rationale for this adverse determination was that the request does not meet medical guidelines of the CA MTUS.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Chiropractic sessions, #8: 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 . Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

Decision rationale: The CA Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend chiropractic care for chronic back pain. The initial trial recommended is 6 chiropractic visits. If prior chiropractic treatment has achieved objective, functional improvement, additional chiropractic care may be approved up to 18 visits over 6 to 8 weeks. In this case, there has been no documented objective, functional improvement from the chiropractic therapies already received. The request for 8 additional chiropractic treatments is not medically necessary.