

Case Number:	CM13-0043470		
Date Assigned:	03/28/2014	Date of Injury:	07/30/2003
Decision Date:	05/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/22/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/22/2013

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 Physical Medicine & 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 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:

This is a 67 year-old female with a 7/30/2003 industrial injury claim. The 10/10/13 orthopedic report from [REDACTED], does not contain a diagnoses, but notes the patient presents with persistent severe cervical and lumbar pain. He states that because of severe pain in the neck and limited motion, she has been referred for some trigger point injections. (TPI) On 10/22/13 UR modified a request for TPI x6 to allow 4 injections.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SIX TRIGGER POINT INJECTIONS TO THE LUMBAR SPINE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Trigger point injections.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines for trigger point injections Page(s): 122.

Decision rationale: The 10/10/13 orthopedic report from [REDACTED], does not contain a diagnoses, but notes the patient presents with persistent severe cervical and lumbar pain. The physical exam does not document trigger points with twitch response or referred pain. MTUS criteria for TPI states: "Documentation of circumscribed trigger points with evidence upon

palpation of a twitch response as well as referred pain" The request for trigger point injections without documentation of trigger points on palpation with twitch response and referred pain is not in accordance with MTUS guidelines.