

Case Number:	CM13-0049315		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	01/06/2011
Decision Date:	03/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/22/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/08/2013

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 & Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Oklahoma 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 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:

The patient is a 66-year-old female who reported injury on 01/06/2011. The patient was noted to undergo a right rotator cuff repair and a left shoulder arthroplasty. The patient was noted to be retired. The patient's pain was noted to average a 3 to 4 on a scale of 1 to 10 in intensity in the right shoulder. The patient was noted to be disinterested in surgeries. The patient was noted to complete a course of physical therapy and continued to perform home exercises. The patient was noted to continue to work on range of motion. The patient diagnoses were noted to include chronic pain syndrome, right rotator cuff tear, and status post left shoulder replacement. The patient was noted to be permanent and stationary, retired. The request was made for an assessment for the functional restoration program.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Comprehensive multidiscipline assessment for FRP: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 31.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Functional Restoration Program Page(s): 30-32.

Decision rationale: California MTUS Guidelines indicate that the criteria for entry into a functional restoration program includes an adequate and thorough evaluation that has been made including baseline functional testing so follow-up with the same test can note functional improvement, documentation of previous methods of treating chronic pain have been unsuccessful and there is an absence of other options likely to result in significant clinical improvement, documentation of the patient's significant loss of the ability to function independently resulting from the chronic pain, documentation that the patient is not a candidate for surgery or other treatments would clearly be warranted, documentation of the patient having motivation to change and that they are willing to forego secondary gains including disability payments to effect this change, and negative predictors of success has been addressed. Additionally it indicates the treatment is not suggested for longer than 2 weeks without evidence of demonstrated efficacy as documented by subjective and objective gains. The clinical documentation submitted for review indicated the patient was retired. There was a lack of documentation of objective functional deficits to support the necessity for the program. The patient indicated that they did not want further surgery. Given the above and the lack of documentation of exceptional factors, the request for comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment for FRP is not medically necessary.