

Case Number:	CM13-0052984		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	11/30/2012
Decision Date:	10/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2013

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 Preventive Medicine 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 24-year-old female with a 11/30/12 date of injury. At the time (10/24/13) of the Decision for functional restorative program evaluation to assist with early return to work program, there is documentation of subjective (upper extremity pain) and objective (positive Tinel's at the median nerve of both wrists) findings, current diagnoses (tenosynovitis of hand and wrist, carpal tunnel syndrome, and chronic pain syndrome), and treatment to date (acupuncture treatment and medications). There is no documentation that additional methods of treating chronic pain (physical therapy) have been unsuccessful and there is an absence of other options likely to result in significant clinical improvement; the patient has a significant loss of ability to function independently resulting from the chronic pain; the patient is not a candidate where surgery or other treatments would clearly be warranted; and the patient exhibits motivation to change.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional Restorative Program Evaluation To Assist With Early Return To Work Program: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 31-32.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines (functional restoration programs) Page(s): 31-32.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation that previous methods of treating chronic pain have been unsuccessful and there is an absence of other options likely to result in significant clinical improvement; the patient has a significant loss of ability to function independently resulting from the chronic pain; the patient is not a candidate where surgery or other treatments would clearly be warranted; and the patient exhibits motivation to change, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of chronic pain program evaluation. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of tenosynovitis of hand and wrist, carpal tunnel syndrome, and chronic pain syndrome. However, despite documentation of conservative treatment (acupuncture treatment and medications), there is no documentation that additional methods of treating chronic pain (physical therapy) have been unsuccessful and there is an absence of other options likely to result in significant clinical improvement; the patient has a significant loss of ability to function independently resulting from the chronic pain; the patient is not a candidate where surgery or other treatments would clearly be warranted; and the patient exhibits motivation to change. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for functional restorative program evaluation to assist with early return to work program is not medically necessary.