

Case Number:	CM13-0053648		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	12/15/2010
Decision Date:	03/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/15/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2013

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 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 46 year-old female patient who injured her right arm on 12/15/10. She has been diagnosed with right lateral epicondylitis. On 11/15/13 UR modified a request of occupational therapy for the elbow allow 3 sessions. The UR stated the patient had PT for the elbow without benefit and it would be worth a try to see if OT would have any benefit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Occupational therapy for the right elbow (8 sessions): Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with lateral epicondylitis of the right elbow that did not respond to PT. The physician wanted to see if OT would help. The MTUS guidelines on OT will refer the reader to the physical medicine section which is the same for PT. MTUS recommends 8-10 sessions for various myalgias and neuralgias. The request for 8 sessions of OT for the lateral epicondylitis appears to be in accordance with the MTUS guidelines.