

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0056127		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/26/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/11/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/15/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/21/2013

### 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 Orthopedic Surgery 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 61-year-old gentleman who sustained an injury to the low back in a work related accident on April 26, 2013. Clinical records available for review indicated that the claimant is status post lumbar fusion at the L3-5 level on 10/23/13 that was complicated by a postoperative infection that required re-admittance to the hospital for an infected lumbar wound. The claimant required surgical irrigation and debridement on November 7, 2013 and was placed on intravenous vancomycin postoperatively with use of a PICC line placed on November 11, 2013. Discharge plans included the continued need for antibiotics for an additional six weeks, home physical therapy, and nursing for appropriate assessments. There is a current request for 28 hours of a home health aide, 4 hours a day for one week to be utilized between November 14, 2013 and January 13, 2014, as well as 42 Tele-health nurse visits between the same time frame.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**The request for 42 home tele-health nurse visits with evaluation between 11/14/2013 and 1/13/2014: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home Health Services.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Section on Home Health Services Page(s): 51.

**Decision rationale:** Based on Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, the request for home health nursing visits times 42 would not be indicated. There is no documentation to indicate that the claimant or his family would not be capable with proper instruction to administer the claimant's antibiotic therapy. The medical records do not indicate the need for home health assessments with daily nursing visits for a six-week period of time for the sole purpose of medication usage from a PICC line. The specific request in this case would not be indicated.

**The request for 28 hours of home health aide visits (4 hours a day for 1 week) between 11/14/2013 and 1/13/2014:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home Health Services.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home Health Services Page(s): 51.

**Decision rationale:** The request for 28 hours of home health aide visits, 4 hours a day for one week, is also not certified. There is no documentation in the records that this claimant is homebound. There is also no documentation to indicate what functions would be performed by the home health aide. The specific request in this case would fail to meet the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guideline criteria and not be supported as medically necessary.