

Case Number:	CM13-0057526		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	06/06/2011
Decision Date:	04/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/31/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/25/2013

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 and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 patient with a date of injury of 6/6/11. It references a 10/9/13 medical report identifying right hand pain with decreased grip strength. Treatment has included PT, carpal tunnel release, and a cold therapy unit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TENS unit with glove garment: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 114-120.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 114-117.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for TENS unit with glove garment, California MTUS supports purchase of TENS only after completion of a one-month rental of TENS with documentation of how often the unit was used, outcomes in terms of pain relief and function, other ongoing pain treatment during the trial period including medication usage, and a treatment plan including the specific short- and long-term goals of treatment with the TENS has been submitted. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested TENS unit with glove garment is not medically necessary.

