

Case Number:	CM13-0061455		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	02/07/2009
Decision Date:	04/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/01/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/05/2013

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 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 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 patient with a date of injury of 2/7/09. A utilization review determination dated 11/1/13 recommends non-certification of a weight loss program. 9/17/13 progress report identifies pain in the neck, back, bilateral wrists, bilateral knees, and left ankle. On exam, there is limited ROM, tenderness, and positive Tinel's and Phalen's on the left wrist. Treatment plan includes continue care.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

one (1) weight loss program for symptoms related to the lumbosacral spine injury, including pain management and dietary consultations, as an outpatient: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Systematic review: an evaluation of major commercial weight loss programs in the United States. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15630109>)

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for a Weight Loss Program for Symptoms related to the Lumbosacral Spine Injury, including Pain Management and Dietary Consultations, as an Outpatient, CA MTUS and ODG do not address the issue. A search of the National Library of identified an article entitled "Systematic review: an evaluation of major commercial weight loss

programs in the United States." This article noted that, with the exception of 1 trial of Weight Watchers, the evidence to support the use of the major commercial and self-help weight loss programs is suboptimal, and controlled trials are needed to assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of these interventions. Within the documentation available for review, the documentation does not clearly describe the patient's attempts at diet modification and a history of failure of reasonable weight loss measures such as dietary counseling, behavior modification, caloric restriction, and exercise within the patient's physical abilities. In light of the above issues, the currently requested Weight Loss Program for Symptoms related to the Lumbosacral Spine Injury, including Pain Management and Dietary Consultations, as an Outpatient is not medically necessary.