

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0062863		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/09/2005
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/25/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/03/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/09/2013

### 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 Pennsylvania. 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:

The claimant is a 66 year old male with a date of injury of 6/9/05. According to the records provided for review, the claimant has undergone three right knee arthroscopies between 2005 and 2007, bilateral foot surgeries with ulcers in 2012, status post L2-L5 posterior spinal instrumentation and fusion with transforaminal instrumentation and fusion with cages L2-L5 on 4/3/13, and status post evacuation of an epidural hematoma on 4/6/13. The claimant is noted to be wheelchair bound. On 11/13/13, [REDACTED] examined the claimant for complaints of low back pain radiating down the buttocks, hips, anterior and posterior thighs to the calves, and depression secondary to his physical limitations. Examination was documented to show decreased sensation in a left L5 dermatome, absent reflexes at the hips and knees, positive straight leg raising on the left at 60 degrees, weakness 4/5 right hip flexors, 3/5 left hip flexors, 2/5 left knee extensors, 3/5 right ankle dorsiflexors, and 0/5 left ankle dorsiflexors. The claimant had multiple diagnoses including post laminectomy syndrome, bilateral foot drop, lumbar radiculopathy L4-5 per EMG/NCS, L2-L5 stenosis, grade 1 spondylolisthesis L3-4 and L4-5, and status post L2-L5 anterior and posterior fusion followed by evacuation of an epidural hematoma. Recommendation by [REDACTED] included lysis of adhesion, trial of a spinal cord stimulator, medication adjustment to control pain, psychotherapy for depression, psychiatric clearance for the spinal cord stimulator trial, an MRI, and a right knee hinged brace. In reviewing the records, there was additional documentation by a Utilization Review physician that an 8/21/13 CT scan showed a fracture of the superior end plate of the L5 vertebra with retropulsion of the L4-5 fusion cage in the spinal canal.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**RAEZ EPIDURAL ADHESIOLYSIS TX:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS/ACOEM guidelines do not address this topic. The Official Disability Guidelines state that percutaneous lysis of adhesions in the epidural space is not supported within the medical literature. These medical records do not provide any further information that would support indication for such a procedure. Other treatment options should be considered due to the 2005 vocational injury in this hotel employee diagnosed with post-laminectomy syndrome. The request is noncertified.