

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0068700		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/03/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/05/2006
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/02/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/04/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/19/2013

### 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 39-year-old claimant has a date of injury of 9/5/06. She has been treated for neck and shoulder pain. At the 11/11/13 office visit, there were complaints of neck pain that radiated into both arms as well as numbness and tingling in the right greater than left hands. The claimant is status post a previous C5-6 artificial disc surgery. Examination of the left shoulder demonstrated impingement signs. The diagnosis of cervicalgia with upper extremity radiculopathy and left shoulder rotator cuff tear was provided. A right shoulder platelet-rich plasma injection and consultation for the cervical spine was requested.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **1 Platelet Rich Plasma Injection Shoulder: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment in Worker's Comp; 18th edition; 2011, Shoulder: Platelet Rich Plasma Injections.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment in Worker's Comp; 18th edition; 2013 Updates: Chapter Shoulder: Platelet Rich Plasma Injections.

**Decision rationale:** Platelet-rich plasma injections for the shoulder would not be considered medically necessary and appropriate. Based on the records provided in this case the injections are not recommended and remain experimental. Therefore, a platelet-rich plasma injection for the shoulder cannot be certified

**Consultation For The Cervical Spine:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation CA MTUS, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004); page 127.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004); Chapter 7: Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations: page 127.

**Decision rationale:** Consultation for the cervical spine would be considered medically necessary and appropriate based on the records provided in this case and the California ACOEM Guidelines. California ACOEM Guidelines state that the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or complex to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, etc. In this case, this claimant has neck pain and neurologic symptoms in the upper extremity. She is status post a previous artificial disc replacement surgery. In light of ongoing issues related to neck pain and history of previous cervical spine surgery, consultation with a cervical spine surgeon would be considered medically necessary and appropriate in this case based upon the California ACOEM Guidelines.