

Case Number:	CM13-0069831		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	01/04/2010
Decision Date:	05/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/23/2013

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 injured worker is a 58 year old female with reported date of injury on 01/04/2010; the mechanism of injury was not provided within the medical records. The injured worker is status post right shoulder surgery on 09/13/2013. The clinical note dated 11/20/2013 stated the the Spinal Q Rehab Jacket was recommended to aid in the injured workers revocery and rehab process of right shoulder and cervical spine pain and to increase rotator cuff function. The progress report, dated 11/06/2013, stated she was progressing well with physical therapy and ice. The physical exam documented active right shoulder flexion and abduction at 115 degrees. Muscle strength was documented at 4/5. The clinical note also documented "pain, weakness and loss of motion and functional deficits". The MRI of the cervical spine dated 02/23/2013 revealed degenerative disc disease. The injured worker had diagnoses including cervical intervertebral disc, shoulder joint pain, and status post right shoulder surgery.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SPINAL Q REHAB JACKET: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 213.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 213.

Decision rationale: The request for Spinal Q Rehab Jacket is non-certified. ACOEM recommends evaluation and management of shoulder complaints through rest and immobilization. Brief use of a sling for severe shoulder pain; only 1-2 days is recommended with exercise to prevent stiffness. ACOEM also states that lumbar support is not recommended beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. The injured worker is status post right shoulder arthroscopy dated 09/13/2013. The documentation indicated the injured worker had "pain, weakness, loss of motion and functional deficits". The documentation also states the injured worker was progressing "well" with physical therapy and additional physical therapy was recommended. There was a lack of documentation available for review regarding the cervical spine pain and function. The Spinal Q Rehab jacket is a full upper body seamless garment designed to improve posture, reduce pain and increase range of motion in the shoulder and spine. The provider indicated it is ideal for improving posture, improving shoulder function and expediting rehabilitation of the shoulders; it may also be utilized in decreasing kyphosis of the spine and preventing thoracic osteoporosis. There was a lack of documentation indicating the injured worker had posture issues, or spinal functional deficits. The injured worker was participating in physical therapy as well as home based exercises, with "good" results. Prolonged use of sling or brace is not recommended for symptom control. Therefore, the request for a Spinal Q Rehab Jacket is non-certified.