

Case Number:	CM13-0071956		
Date Assigned:	01/08/2014	Date of Injury:	08/16/2001
Decision Date:	04/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/02/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/30/2013

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 & Rehabilitation 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:

The patient is a 54-year-old female who reported an injury on August 16, 2001. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The patient's diagnoses included intervertebral disc disorders of the lumbar region and cervicalgia. The patient underwent a lumbar radiofrequency with caudal epidural on October 29, 2013. The request is for a Q-tech cold therapy recovery system and a Qtech DCT prevention system for 14 days to combat pain and swelling.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Q-TECH DCT PREVENTION SYSTEM POST SURGERY FOR HOME USE UP TO 14 DAYS FOR 6-8 HOURS OR AS NEEDED: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG guidelines web 2012 - cold/heat packs

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 298. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Cold/heat packs

Decision rationale: The ACOEM Guidelines indicate at home local applications of cold in the first few days of acute complaints, thereafter, there should be applications of heat or cold. As there was no mention of continuous flow cryotherapy, secondary guidelines were sought. The

Official Disability Guidelines do not recommend continuous flow cryotherapy post-surgically for back complaints or treatments. They also support the use of hot or cold packs per the patient's preference. There is a lack of documentation indicating a necessity for a Q-tech cold therapy recovery system, post procedurally for this procedure. Given the above, the request for a Q-tech DCT prevention system, post surgery, for home use up to 14 days for 6 to 8 hours or as needed is not medically necessary.

Q-TECH COLD THERAPY RECOVERY SYSTEM WITH WRAP POST SURGERY FOR HOME USE UP TO 14 DAYS FOR 6-8 HOURS AS NEEDED: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG guidelines web 2012 - cold/heat packs

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 298. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Cold/heat packs

Decision rationale: The ACOEM Guidelines indicate at home local applications of cold in the first few days of acute complaints, thereafter, there should be applications of heat or cold. As there was no mention of continuous flow cryotherapy, secondary guidelines were sought. The Official Disability Guidelines do not recommend continuous flow cryotherapy post-surgically for back complaints or treatments. They also support the use of hot or cold packs per the patient's preference. There is a lack of documentation indicating a necessity for a Q-tech cold therapy recovery system, post procedurally for this procedure. Given the above, the request for a Q-tech cold therapy recovery system with wrap post surgery, for home use, up to 14 days for 6 to 8 hours as needed is not medically necessary.