

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0072711		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/08/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/25/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/28/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/03/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/31/2013

### 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 Occupational Medicine 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 applicant is a represented dependable [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for low back, neck, elbow, wrist, and shoulder pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of September 25, 2013. In a utilization review report dated December 3, 2013, the claims administrator partially certified a request for eight sessions of chiropractic manipulative therapy as six sessions of chiropractic manipulative therapy. Although this was not a chronic pain case, the claims administrator nevertheless invoked the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines. It was suggested that this was first-time request for chiropractic manipulative therapy, although this was not clearly stated, and that the applicant, moreover, was off of work. In a January 15, 2014 progress note, the applicant was given diagnoses of elbow pain status post burn and full thickness skin graft for the same, left knee pain, neck pain, low back pain, pelvic pain, wrist pain and shoulder pain. It was stated that the applicant had mild carpal tunnel syndrome. The attending provider suggested the applicant undergo eight sessions of chiropractic manipulative therapy while remaining off of work, on total temporary disability. The applicant had undergone skin grafting of the left forearm and upper arm on September 28, 2013, it was incidentally noted. The attending provider stated that the goals of chiropractic manipulative therapy were reduced pain, improved range of motion, and to perform strengthening.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**CHIROPRACTIC THERAPY 2 TIMES 4 WEEKS:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines  
Page(s): 58-59.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders  
(Revised 2007) Page(s): 40.

**Decision rationale:** It was not clearly stated which body part or body parts the attending provider was seeking manipulation upon. However, ACOEM does not espouse manipulative therapy for several of the body parts in questions. Namely, the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 11, page 265, states that the manipulation has not been proved effective for applicants with pain in the hand, wrist, and forearm. In this case, one of the applicant's primary pain generators is, in fact, the left wrist. Similarly, the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 10, Table 4, page 40, also notes that there is no recommendation on manipulation for the elbow, another of the applicant's primary pain generators. Given the fact ACOEM does not explicitly support or recommends against manipulation for two of the body parts for which it is being sought, namely the elbow and wrist, the request is not indicated. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.