

Case Number:	CM14-0003099		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	07/24/2012
Decision Date:	06/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/31/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/08/2014

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 and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas and Ohio. 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 59-year-old female who reported injury on 07/24/2012. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The documentation indicated the injured worker had an anterior direct lateral fusion from L1-2 followed by T10-S1 posterior spinal fusion with instrumentation in December of 2013. The documentation indicated the injured worker smoked 4 to 5 cigarettes per day. The DWC Form RFA dated 12/18/2013 revealed the request for VascuTherm with DVT prevention and a bone stimulator. The diagnosis for the requested durable medical equipment was severe degeneration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

VASCUTHERM W/DVT PREVENTION X 30 DAYS: 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), Knee & Leg Chapter, Vesopneumatic Devices, Venous Thrombosis

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee & Leg Chapter, Venous Thrombosis

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines recommend identifying injured workers who are at a high risk for developing venous thrombosis and providing prophylactic measures, such as consideration for anticoagulation therapy. The clinical documentation submitted for review failed to indicate the injured worker was at a high risk. There was lack of documented rationale for the necessity of a VascuTherm with DVT prevention. Given the above, and the lack of documentation of exceptional factors, the request for VascuTherm with DVT prevention times 30 days is not medically necessary. .

PURCHASE OF OSTEOGENESIS BONE STIMULATOR FOR LUMBAR SPINE:
Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Bone Growth Stimulators.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low Back Chapter, Bone Growth Stimulators

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines indicate the use of bone growth stimulators may be medically necessary as an adjunct to a spinal fusion surgery for injured workers with a fusion performed at more than 1 level, or a current smoking habit. The clinical documentation submitted for review indicated the injured worker had a fusion that was performed at more than 1 level, and had a current smoking habit. This request meets the criteria. Given the above, the request for Purchase of Osteogenesis Bone Stimulator for the Lumbar Spine is medically necessary.