

Case Number:	CM14-0003937		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	02/15/2006
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/09/2014

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 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 is a male patient with the date of injury of February 15, 2006. A Utilization Review was performed on December 24, 2013 and recommended non-certification of 8 physical therapy visits for the right shoulder between 12/18/2013 and 2/1/2014. A Progress Report dated December 9, 2013 identifies Subjective Complaints of right shoulder pain. No objective findings regarding the shoulder are identified. Diagnoses identify right shoulder sprain/strain. Treatment Plan identifies physical therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

8 Physical therapy visits for the right shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 201-205 and 555-556. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Treatment Index, 11th Edition (web), 2013, Shoulder Chapter, Physical therapy.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 200. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Shoulder Chapter, Physical Therapy.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for 8 physical therapy visits for the right shoulder, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend a short course of active therapy with continuation of active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. ODG has more specific criteria for the ongoing use of physical therapy. ODG recommends a trial of 6 physical therapy visits. If the trial of physical therapy results in objective functional improvement, as well as ongoing objective treatment goals, then additional therapy may be considered. ODG recommends 10 physical therapy sessions. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication of any objective functional improvement from the therapy already provided, no documentation of specific ongoing objective treatment goals, and no statement indicating why an independent program of home exercise would be insufficient to address any remaining objective deficits. In the absence of such documentation, the current request for 8 physical therapy visits for the right shoulder is not medically necessary.