

Case Number:	CM14-0103227		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	08/09/2012
Decision Date:	10/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/03/2014

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 Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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 59 year old male with a work injury dated 8/9/12. The diagnoses include did make a diagnosis of head injury with postconcussive syndrome, neck pain radiating to the left upper extremity, mid back pain, lower back pain radiating to the hips and lower extremities, and bilateral shoulder pain improved on the right. Under consideration is a request for Physical Medicine Procedure- (6 additional sessions of vestibular rehab for the head). There is a primary treating physician report dated 5/14/14 that states that the patient should continue to go to vestibular rehab. His Berg score is improving and SOT score is improving which will decrease his risk for falls There are certain vestibular training exercises that can only be done in a supervised environment in safe conditions that cannot be accomplished with a simple home exercise program. If he was not to receive additional vestibular rehabilitation, his risk for future falls would be high Therefore, physical therapy is a cost effective means to preventing future injuries. Per documentation as of 4/15/14 the patient's Berg score was 47.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical Medicine Procedure- (6 additional sessions of vestibular rehab for the head):
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines- Head Chapter

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head-Vestibular PT rehabilitation

Decision rationale: The MTUS does not specifically address vestibular rehabilitation. The documentation indicates that the patient has had at least 54 sessions of vestibular rehab since 9/13. The recommendations per PT documents indicate that the BERG score needs to be over 46 to minimize fall risk. The patient should be versed in a home program at this point. The request for Physical Medicine Procedure (6 additional sessions of vestibular rehab for the head) is not medically necessary.