

Case Number:	CM14-0010447		
Date Assigned:	02/28/2014	Date of Injury:	07/30/2013
Decision Date:	06/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/27/2014

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 Management 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 patient with a date of injury of 7/30/13. A utilization review determination dated 1/15/04 recommends non-certification of a cervical traction unit trial. 3/4/14 medical report identifies chronic neck pain 1-2/10 with associated numbness and tingling down the left arm. On exam, Spurling test is positive on the left.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CERVICAL TRACTION UNIT TRIAL 30-90 DAYS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 173.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 173-174. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Neck & Upper Back Chapter, Traction.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for cervical traction unit trial 30-90 days, the CA MTUS and ACOEM state that there is no high-grade scientific evidence to support the use of traction and that traction is not recommended. ODG recommends home cervical patient controlled traction (using a seated over-the-door device or a supine device, which may be preferred due to greater forces), for patients with radicular symptoms, in conjunction with a

home exercise program. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the requested device is a patient-controlled device and that the patient is adherent to an independent home exercise program to support the appropriateness of a trial of traction as recommended by ODG despite the recommendations of the CA MTUS and ACOEM. In light of the above issues, the currently requested cervical traction unit trial 30-90 days is not medically necessary.