

Case Number:	CM14-0012417		
Date Assigned:	04/28/2014	Date of Injury:	01/28/2008
Decision Date:	07/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/30/2014

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in Utah. 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 38 year-old female. The patient's date of injury is Jan, 28, 2014. The mechanism of injury is unclear according to the clinical documents. The patient has been diagnosed with carpal tunnel, left wrist capsulitis, anxiety, insomnia, and right wrist overuse syndrome. The patient's treatments have included surgery to the left hand. The physical exam findings show the left hand appearing cosmetically deformed. Fourth and Fifth fingers are hyperextended at the MP joint.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RETROSPECTIVE HOME HEALTH CARE FOR 6 HOURS A DAY, 5 DAYS A WEEK FOR 6 WEEKS (FOR HOUSEKEEPING, SHOPPING AND COOKING): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 51.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 51.

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) treatment guidelines were reviewed in regards to this specific case, and the clinical documents were reviewed. MTUS guidelines state the following: "Home health services Recommended only for

otherwise recommended medical treatment for patients who are homebound, on a part-time or "intermittent" basis, generally up to no more than 35 hours per week. Medical treatment does not include homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom when this is the only care needed (CMS, 2004). "According to the clinical documentation provided and current MTUS guidelines; Home health services, for house cleaning, shopping, and cooking, is not indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.