

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0118788		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/01/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/24/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/16/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/29/2014

### 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 and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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:

Medical records reflect the claimant is a 33 year old male who sustained a neck and back injury on 8-1-13. The claimant has been treated conservatively with physical therapy and medications. Office visit from 6-23-14 notes the claimant has chronic low back pain, occipital neuralgia and cervicgia. On exam, the claimant has tenderness to palpation over the lumbosacral paraspinals and tenderness over T4 and pain is increased with extension.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Additional Physical therapy for low back and cervical 2 X 3:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical medicine Page(s): 98-99. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) pain chapter - physical medicine.

**Decision rationale:** Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines as well as ODG notes that one should allow for fading of treatment frequency (from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less), plus active self-directed home Physical Medicine. The claimant had been provided with physical therapy. There is an absence in documentation noting quantification of improvement with

physical therapy provided. There is an absence in documentation noting that this claimant cannot perform a home exercise program. There are no extenuating circumstances to support physical therapy at this juncture. Therefore, the medical necessity of this request is not established.