

Case Number:	CM14-0122956		
Date Assigned:	08/08/2014	Date of Injury:	09/13/2011
Decision Date:	10/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/04/2014

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 Practice, 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:

26 yr. old male claimant sustained a work injury on 9/13/11 involving the right elbow and shoulder. He had an unremarkable MRI of the right elbow in December 2011. He was diagnosed with right shoulder dysfunction and right elbow epicondylitis. He had undergone physical therapy, oral analgesics and topical creams. A recent request without supporting notes was for a neuromuscular simulation for shock/TENS unit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Neuromuscular stimulation for shock TENS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TENS (chronic pain) Page(s): 105.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TENS unit Page(s): 113-115.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines, a TENS unit is not recommended as a primary treatment modality, but a one-month home-based TENS trial may be considered as a noninvasive conservative option. It is recommended for the following diagnoses: CRPS, multiple sclerosis, spasticity due to spinal cord injury and neuropathic pain due to diabetes or herpes. In this case, the claimant did not have the above diagnoses. There was no clinical note supporting

the request. The length of use was not specified. The request for a Neuromuscular stimulation for shock/ TENS unit is not medically necessary.