

Case Number:	CM14-0125026		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	10/18/1985
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/07/2014

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 10/18/85. A utilization review determination dated 7/16/14 recommends non-certification of housekeeping services. It noted that the patient had a TKR in February of 2014 and had guarded and restricted motion. The provider stated that the patient required help with housekeeping after the TKA due to her disability, but needed no formal skilled nursing during that time.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Housekeeping services for dates of service: 4/1, 4, 9, 14, 18, 23, 28 3/4, 7, 10, 16, 21, 24, 30 2/5, 10, 14: 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 Home health services Page(s): 51 of 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for housekeeping services, the MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines states that home health services are recommended only for otherwise recommended medical treatment for patients who are homebound, and 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. Within the documentation available for review, there is no documentation that the patient is homebound and in need of specialized home care (such as skilled nursing care, physical, occupational, or speech-language therapy). In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested housekeeping services are not medically necessary.