

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0128747		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/05/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/15/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/11/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/12/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/13/2014

### 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 Psychology 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:

The injured worker is a 45-year-old male who reported an injury on 04/15/2009. The mechanism of injury was not provided. On 03/18/2014, the injured worker presented with low back pain radiating into the left leg. The injured worker had a prior bilateral facet injection from L2 to L5, followed by a neural ablation. There was moderate improvement noted. Diagnoses were lumbar sprain/strain, lumbar facet syndrome from L5 to S1 on the left, left SI joint dysfunction improved, and status post L2 to L3 microdiscectomy/laminectomy. The provider recommended a psychological evaluation for a chronic pain program and psychological testing for a chronic pain management program. The provider's rationale was not provided. The Request for Authorization form was not included in the medical documents for review.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Psychological evaluation for Chronic Pain Program:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic pain programs(functional restoration programs) Page(s): 29.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines ODG Cognitive Behavior Therapy guidelines for chronic pain Page(s): 23.

**Decision rationale:** The request for psychological evaluation for chronic pain program is medically necessary. The California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Guidelines recommend a psychological referral after a 4 week lack of progress in physical medicine alone. The provider has recommended a psychological evaluation for entrance into a chronic pain program. There is evidence of at least a 4 week lack of progress from physical medicine to warrant a psychological evaluation for entrance into a chronic pain program. As such, medical necessity has been established.

**Psychological testing for Chronic Pain Management Program:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic pain programs(functional restoration programs) Page(s): 29.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines ODG Cognitive Behavior Therapy guidelines for chronic pain Page(s): 23.

**Decision rationale:** The request for psychological testing for chronic pain management program is medically necessary. The guidelines recommend a psychological referral a 4 week lack of progress from physical medicine alone. Psychological testing prior to entrance into a chronic pain management program would be warranted. The concurrent request for a psychological evaluation is medically necessary. The request for psychological testing for a chronic pain management program is also warranted. As such, medical necessity has been established.