

Case Number:	CM14-0128880		
Date Assigned:	08/18/2014	Date of Injury:	04/27/2012
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 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 patient sustained an injury on 4/27/12 from tripping over a bean bag chair while employed by [REDACTED]. Request(s) under consideration include Purchase of TENS unit with supplies. Diagnoses include knee contusion; lumbosacral spondylosis/ sprain/ lumbago; patella chondromalacia; neck sprain; morbid obesity; shoulder sprain; elbow contusion; hypertension; and myalgia/ myositis. Report of 7/24/14 from the provider noted the patient with ongoing chronic knee disorders; last injection gave some relief for nearly 6 weeks, but is wearing off and would like to be re-injected; still with ongoing low back problems. Exam showed knee tenderness along medial joint line; range of 3-115 degrees with small effusion. The request(s) for Purchase of TENS unit with supplies was non-certified on 8/6/14 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Purchase of TENS unit with supplies: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines CA MTUS TENS, chronic pain (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Transcutaneous Electrotherapy, TENS for chronic pain Page(s): 114-117.

Decision rationale: This patient sustained an injury on 4/27/12 from tripping over a bean bag chair while employed by [REDACTED]. Request(s) under consideration include Purchase of TENS unit with supplies. Diagnoses include knee contusion; lumbosacral spondylosis/ sprain/ lumbago; patella chondromalacia; neck sprain; morbid obesity; shoulder sprain; elbow contusion; hypertension; and myalgia/ myositis. Report of 7/24/14 from the provider noted the patient with ongoing chronic knee disorders; last injection gave some relief for nearly 6 weeks, but is wearing off and would like to be re-injected; still with ongoing low back problems. Exam showed knee tenderness along medial joint line; range of 3-115 degrees with small effusion. The request(s) for Purchase of TENS unit with supplies was non-certified on 8/6/14. Per California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, ongoing treatment is not advisable if there are no signs of objective progress and functional restoration has not been demonstrated. Specified criteria for the use of TENS Unit include trial in adjunction to ongoing treatment modalities within the functional restoration approach as appropriate for documented chronic intractable pain of at least three months duration with failed evidence of other appropriate pain modalities tried such as medication. From the submitted reports, the patient has received extensive conservative medical treatment to include chronic opiate analgesics and other medication, physical therapy, steroid injection, activity modifications/rest, yet the patient has remained symptomatic and functionally impaired. There is no documentation on how or what TENS unit is requested, functional improvement from trial treatment, nor is there any documented short-term or long-term goals of treatment with the TENS unit. There is no evidence for change in work status, increased in activities of daily living (ADLs), decreased visual analog scale (VAS) score, medication usage, or treatment utilization from any TENS treatment already rendered for purchase. The Purchase of TENS unit with supplies is not medically necessary and appropriate.