

Case Number:	CM14-0129488		
Date Assigned:	08/18/2014	Date of Injury:	12/05/2013
Decision Date:	10/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/14/2014

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:

The patient is a 55-year-old male who was injured on 12/05/2013. The mechanism of injury is unknown. Prior treatment history has included Physical Therapy and TENS, which were beneficial in the past. Progress report dated 06/13/2014 documented the patient to have complaints of medications decreases his right knee pain rated as 8/10; left knee pain rated as 5/10 and low back pain rated as 7/10. The patient reported his pain and improves his function. The patient takes tramadol ER for pain. She has used TENS in the past with decreased spasm and her pain rating was 3/10 with increased tolerance to exercise and activity. The patient is diagnosed with right knee medial meniscus tear, right inguinal hernia. She was recommended for a 30 day trial of TENS unit as it has helped in the past. Prior utilization review dated 08/06/2014 by [REDACTED] states the requests for 30 Day Trial of TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulator) Unit; and Purchase 4 packs Electrodes, 1 Battery, 1 Set of Lead Wires is denied due to lack of documented evidence to support the request.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

30 Day Trial of TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulator) Unit: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

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

Decision rationale: According to the reference for CA MTUS, Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation Devices are not recommended for chronic pain, but a one-month home-based TENS trial may be considered as a noninvasive conservative option, if used as an adjunct to a program of evidence-based functional restoration for neuropathic pain, like diabetic neuropathy and post-herpetic neuralgia, CRPS, phantom limb pain, spasticity, and multiple sclerosis. Since the medical records do not have any of these diagnoses, the medical necessity is not established for TENS Unit Trial.

Purchase 4 Packs Electrodes, 1 Battery, 1 Set of Lead Wires: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

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

Decision rationale: According to the reference for CA MTUS, neuromuscular electrical stimulation devices are not recommended for chronic pain, but a one-month home-based TENS trial may be considered as a noninvasive conservative option, if used as an adjunct to a program of evidence-based functional restoration for neuropathic pain, like diabetic neuropathy and post-herpetic neuralgia, CRPS, phantom limb pain, spasticity, and multiple sclerosis. Since the medical records do not have any of these diagnoses, the medical necessity is not established for TENS unit trial or the Purchase of the associated 4 packs Electrodes, 1 Battery, 1 Set of Lead Wires.