

Case Number:	CM14-0133138		
Date Assigned:	08/22/2014	Date of Injury:	06/08/2009
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/18/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/20/2014

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 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:

Medical records reflect the patient is a 66 year old male who sustained a work injury to the lumbar spine on 6-8-09. He has been treated with medications and acupuncture. Medical records reflect the patient has constant low back pain with radiation into the lower extremities.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lumbar support/cushion/pillow qty 1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 298,301.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Lubmar spine - Lumbar supports.

Decision rationale: ACOEM and ODG notes that lumbar supports are not recommended for prevention of low back pain. There is an absence in current evidence based medicine that supports a lumbar support or cushion/pillows for symptomatic pain relief. Therefore, the request for a lumbar support/cushion/pillow is not medically necessary.