

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0139243		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/05/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/09/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/20/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/28/2014

### 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 licensed in Chiropractic, has a subspecialty in Pediatric Chiropractic 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 injured worker is a 60 year old individual with an original date of injury of 7/9/03. The mechanism of this industrial injury was not specified. The injured worker has undergone approved chiropractic treatments, without documented objective, functional improvement. The Guidelines recommend 1-2 chiropractic visits for flare-ups. The patient was also treated with pain medications and epidural injections. The patient was treated 3/20/14, 4/2/14, 5/12/14 and 5/28/14, in a pattern more consistent with maintenance care. The request is in excess of the Guidelines. The disputed issue is a request for additional chiropractic treatments on 6/10/14, 6/19/14, 7/7/14, 8/4/14 and 20 additional treatments. An earlier Medical Utilization Review made an adverse determination regarding this request. The rationale for this adverse determination was that the request does not meet medical guidelines of the CA MTUS.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical muscle stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 6/10/14:**

Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatment with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 6/10/14 is non-certified.

**Retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical muscle stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 6/19/14:**  
Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatment with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 6/19/14 is non-certified.

**Retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical muscle stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 7/7/14:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The retrospective request for chiropractic

manipulation treatment with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 7/7/14 is not medically necessary.

**Retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical muscle stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 8/4/14:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatment with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 7/7/14 is non-certified. Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The retrospective request for chiropractic manipulation treatment with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination on 8/4/14 is not medically necessary.

**20 chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical muscle stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to reevaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. There is no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and excessive treatment for a flare-up of the injury. The request for 20 additional chiropractic manipulation treatments with electrical stimulation, intersegmental traction, manual therapy and re-examination is not medically necessary.