

Case Number:	CM14-0145446		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	02/18/1984
Decision Date:	12/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/08/2014

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 Family Medicine, 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 is a 56 year old male patient who sustained an injury on 2/18/1984. He sustained the injury when he was working on a truck engine, and he bent over a large pipe trying to hold up a cylinder head. The diagnoses include right greater trochanteric bursitis, post laminectomy syndrome, status post revision spinal cord stimulator battery pack and chronic sexual dysfunction. Per the doctor's note dated 7/24/14, patient had complaints of right sided low back pain with radiation to the buttocks, lateral aspect of the hip and a difficult time sleeping on the right side. Physical examination revealed well healed incision, tenderness to palpation over the right lumbar paraspinal muscles to right greater trochanter; stable motor and sensory examination. The current medication list is not specified in the records provided. He has had chest X-ray dated 2/10/14 with normal findings and lumbar MRI dated 11/09/2011 which revealed degenerative changes at multiple levels with disc bulging at L4-5 with bilateral recess and foraminal narrowing, mild posterior disc bulging at L3-4 and L5-S1 without significant stenosis or foraminal compromise. He has undergone lumbar spine stimulator implants in 2012 and 2013; lumbar spine discectomy in 2010 and 2011; revision spinal cord stimulator battery pack procedure on 02/10/2014. He has had physical therapy, aquatic therapy, home exercise program, epidural steroid injections and spinal cord stimulator for this injury.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical Therapy treatment to the lumbar spine and right hip for 6 sessions: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Therapy Page(s): 98.

Decision rationale: The cited guidelines recommend up to 9-10 physical therapy visits for this diagnosis. Per the records provided, patient has already had an unspecified number of physical therapy visits for this injury. The requested additional visits in addition to the previously rendered physical therapy sessions are more than recommended by the cited criteria. There is no evidence of significant progressive functional improvement from the previous physical therapy visits that is documented in the records provided. Per the cited guidelines, "Patients are instructed and expected to continue active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels." A valid rationale as to why remaining rehabilitation cannot be accomplished in the context of an independent exercise program is not specified in the records provided. The medical necessity of Physical Therapy treatment to the lumbar spine and right hip for 6 sessions is not established for this patient at this time.