

Case Number:	CM14-0146836		
Date Assigned:	09/15/2014	Date of Injury:	09/29/2007
Decision Date:	12/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/09/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 70-year-old female with an 8/29/07 date of injury. At the time (8/21/14) of request for authorization for 1 year gym membership, there is documentation of subjective (low back and knee pain) and objective (tenderness over the L3-4 and L4-5 facets, pain on range of motion, increased cervical range of motion, and decreased right knee range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (lumbago, lumbar facet arthropathy, and lower leg pain), and treatment to date (medications, physical therapy, treatment with TENS unit, cervical epidural steroid injection, and chiropractic therapy). There is no documentation that a home exercise program with periodic assessment and revision has not been effective, there is a need for equipment, and that treatment is monitored and administered by medical professionals.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Year Gym Membership: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 114, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Lumbar Spine, Gym Memberships and www.worklossdata.com

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Exercise Page(s): 46. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low back, Gym Membership

Decision rationale: California MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that exercise programs, including aerobic conditioning and strengthening, are superior to treatment programs that do not include exercise. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) identifies documentation that a home exercise program with periodic assessment and revision has not been effective, there is a need for equipment, and that treatment is monitored and administered by medical professionals, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of gym membership. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbago, lumbar facet arthropathy, and lower leg pain. However, there is no documentation that a home exercise program with periodic assessment and revision has not been effective, there is a need for equipment, and that treatment is monitored and administered by medical professionals. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for one year gym membership is not medically necessary.