

Case Number:	CM14-0152192		
Date Assigned:	09/22/2014	Date of Injury:	06/13/2012
Decision Date:	12/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/18/2014

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, has a subspecialty in Pain 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 patient with a date of injury of 6/13/12. A utilization review determination dated 8/29/14 recommends non-certification of lumbar ESI. 8/7/14 medical report identifies low back pain with radiating pain into the hips and into the right leg 7.5-8/10. On exam, there is limited ROM (range of motion), positive SLR (straight leg raise) on the right, positive facet loading.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections at L3-L4, L4-L5, and L5-S1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Epidural Steroid Injections (ESIs) Section.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Epidural Steroid Injections (ESIs) Page(s): 46.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for lumbar epidural steroid injection, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state that epidural injections are recommended as an option for treatment of radicular pain, defined as pain in dermatomal distribution with corroborative findings of radiculopathy, and failure of conservative treatment. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication of specific radicular findings with corroborative

imaging and/or electrodiagnostic study findings. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested lumbar epidural steroid injection is not medically necessary.