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| Case Number: | CM14-0155434 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 09/25/2014 | Date of Injury: | 05/31/2008 |
| Decision Date: | 12/15/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 09/05/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 09/23/2014 |

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 5/31/08. A utilization review determination dated 9/5/14 recommends non-certification of PT. 8/18/14 medical report identifies pain in the back, right shoulder, and right leg, as well as "tingly extremities." On exam, there is positive SLR, decreased ROM, and other illegible findings.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical Therapy 1x wk for 4 weeks for the Lumbar Spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines (Effective July 18, 2009) Physical Medicine Page(s): 98 and 99.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for physical therapy, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend up to 10 sessions with continuation of active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. Within the documentation available for review, the patient has a longstanding injury, but there is documentation of specific objective functional improvement with any previous sessions and remaining deficits that cannot be addressed within the context of an independent home exercise

program, yet are expected to improve with formal supervised therapy. In light of the above issues, the currently requested physical therapy is not medically necessary.