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| <b>Case Number:</b>   | CM14-0159602 |                              |            |
| <b>Date Assigned:</b> | 10/03/2014   | <b>Date of Injury:</b>       | 04/29/1993 |
| <b>Decision Date:</b> | 10/29/2014   | <b>UR Denial Date:</b>       | 09/17/2014 |
| <b>Priority:</b>      | Standard     | <b>Application Received:</b> | 09/29/2014 |

### 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 Occupational 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:

There were 63 pages for this review. The application for independent medical review was signed on September 26, 2014. It was for prescription oxygen for headaches since December 4, 2013. The peer-to-peer call noted that the claimant would come in on September 22, 2014 and that the provider will address the headache issue at that time. The contact confirmed that there are no notes with regard to the headaches. She reportedly does use oxygen for migraines but she does not use it all the time. As of November 18, 2013, the claimant had pain in the neck and back. She takes Vicodin. There is fatigue and neck stiffness. The previous reviewer noted that WebMD notes the cluster headaches are sometimes treated with 100% oxygen at a high flow rate. It only provides temporary relief. However in this case there is no medical report supporting the date of the request. Also there were no noted headaches. There is no mention of functional improvement with oxygen use or any details regarding the headaches at all.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Oxygen prescription for headaches since 12/4/13: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) (cluster headaches)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Oxygen treatment of cluster headache: A review. Petersen AS1, Barloese MC2, Jensen RH1. PubMed.

**Decision rationale:** Per the reference, Oxygen treatment of cluster headache: A review. Petersen AS1, Barloese MC2, Jensen RH1. PubMed. 28 references regarding the oxygen use for certain headaches were examined. There are only very few controlled studies available, so it is difficult to draw generalizable conclusions that the treatment is effective or safety proven for large populations of people. Plus, the medical records do not even discuss the headache issue. The request was appropriately non-certified.