

Case Number:	CM14-0159758		
Date Assigned:	10/03/2014	Date of Injury:	01/14/2011
Decision Date:	10/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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:

Medical Records reflect the claimant is a 52 year old male who sustained a work injury on 1-14-11. Office visit on 9-18-14 notes the claimant continues with low back pain. His neurological exam was normal. Physical therapy was recommended.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical therapy three times a week for eight weeks (24 total sessions) for the low back:

Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine.

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

Decision rationale: Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines as well as ODG notes that one should allow for fading of treatment frequency (from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less), plus active self-directed home Physical Medicine. There is an absence in documentation noting that this claimant cannot perform a home exercise program. There are no extenuating circumstances to support physical therapy at this juncture. Therefore, the request for physical therapy three

times a week for eight weeks (24 total sessions) for the low back is not medically necessary and appropriate.