

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0170122		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/20/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/20/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/28/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/01/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/15/2014

### 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 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:

The underlying date of injury in this case is 6/20/2014. The date of Utilization Review under appeal is 10/1/2014. The patient's diagnoses include chronic right-sided low back pain and right lower extremity pain. On 9/10/2014 the primary treating physician saw the patient in follow-up of low back pain. The patient was noted to have improvement from Motrin and Ultracet. The treating physician noted that a qualified medical examiner report suggested a TENS unit or H-wave unit and also a Donjoy sacroiliac belt or brace and additional physical therapy, and therefore these devices were recommended. An MRI of the lumbar spine was noted to have shown degenerative disc disease with a disc protrusion at L5-S1. A qualified medical exam report of 7/19/2014 notes that the patient has not reported having received a TENS unit or H-wave trial previously and also recommended a trial of sacroiliac joint brace.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**TENS unit for the lumbar spine, 30 day trial:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TENS.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TENS  
Page(s): 114.

**Decision rationale:** California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines section on TENS, (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation), page 114 recommends the use of a TENS unit for neuropathic pain. The medical records do not document neuropathic pain in this case. The qualified medical exam report and treating physician notes do not provide a rationale for the use of TENS for non-neuropathic pain. This request is not medically necessary.

**Donjoy Sacroiliac Joint Brace for the lumbosacral spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 301. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Hip, Sacroiliac Belt

**Decision rationale:** ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 12, Low Back, page 301 states that lumbar supports have not been shown to have lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. Official Disability Guidelines/Treatment in Workers Compensation/Hip does recommend the use of a sacroiliac belt, but does not specifically discuss an indication for a Donjoy sacroiliac brace. Neither the treating physician notes, nor the qualified medical examiner report clarifies the rationale or indication for this requested device. Overall, the medical records and guidelines do not support an indication for this requested treatment. This request is not medically necessary.