

Case Number:	CM14-0021351		
Date Assigned:	05/07/2014	Date of Injury:	09/04/2013
Decision Date:	07/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/20/2014

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, 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 36-year-old male with a 9/14/13 date of injury. At the time (1/14/14) of request for authorization for trigger point impedance imagining (TPII) to the low back and localized intense neurostimulation therapy 1 x 6-12 to the low back, there is documentation of subjective (constant low back pain with difficulty sleeping due to pain) and objective (trigger points, decreased lumbar range of motion, and positive straight leg raise) findings, current diagnoses (Lumbar spine sprain/strain and lumbar radiculopathy), and treatment to date (medications). There is no documentation of a recent stroke.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TRIGGER POINT IMPEDANCE IMAGING (TPII) TO THE LOW BACK: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation Page(s): 121.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines states that neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) is not recommended. In addition, MTUS Chronic

Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines states that NMES is primarily used as part of a rehabilitation program following stroke and there is no evidence to support its use in chronic pain. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of Lumbar spine sprain/strain and lumbar radiculopathy. However, there is no documentation of a recent stroke. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for trigger point impedance imaging (TPII) to the low back is not medically necessary.

LOCALIZED INTENSE NEUROSTIMULATION THERAPY 1 X 6-12 TO THE LOW BACK: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation Page(s): 121.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines states that neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) is not recommended. In addition, MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines states that NMES is primarily used as part of a rehabilitation program following stroke and there is no evidence to support its use in chronic pain. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of Lumbar spine sprain/strain and lumbar radiculopathy. However, there is no documentation of a recent stroke. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for localized intense neurostimulation therapy 1 x 6-12 to the low back is not medically necessary.