

Case Number:	CM14-0022568		
Date Assigned:	06/11/2014	Date of Injury:	09/26/2006
Decision Date:	07/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/24/2014

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 licensed in Chiropractic 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 injured worker is a 62 year old female with an original date of injury of 9/28/06. The mechanism of injury occurred due to repetitive stress. Lumbar MRI on 5/5/09 revealed degenerative disc disease at L3-4 and L5-S1. Cervical MRI revealed degenerative changes most severely at C4-5. The patient has 38 sessions of Physical therapy, but this was not helpful in relieving the patient's symptoms for any significant amount of time. The injured worker has undergone 12 approved chiropractic treatments. There has been no documented objective, functional improvement. The disputed issue is a request for 12 chiropractic treatments for the neck and upper extremities. An earlier Medical Review made an adverse determination regarding this request. The rationale for this adverse determination was that the request does not meet medical guidelines of the CA MTUS.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CHIROPRACTIC TREATMENTS TO THE NECK AND UPPER EXTREMITIES 12 SESSIONS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-59.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

Decision rationale: The CA Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend chiropractic care for chronic back pain. The initial trial recommended is 6 chiropractic visits. If prior chiropractic treatment has achieved objective, functional improvement, additional chiropractic care may be approved up to 18 visits over 6 to 8 weeks. In this case, there has been no documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatments. The request for 12 additional chiropractic treatments for the neck and upper extremities is not medically necessary.