

Case Number:	CM14-0024585		
Date Assigned:	06/11/2014	Date of Injury:	02/27/2012
Decision Date:	07/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/26/2014

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:

The patient is a 43 year-old who sustained an injury on 2/27/12 while employed by [REDACTED]. Request under consideration include 20 hours of Functional Restoration Program (FRP). Diagnoses include Brachial plexus lesions; Clavicular fracture; Neck pain; and Cervicobrachial syndrome. Review indicated the patient had participated in physical therapy program from 1/24/13 to 6/6/13, completing 30 PT sessions, at which time, the patient began the Functional Restoration Program. From 1/6/14 to 2/6/14, the patient has completed 131 out of the 140 hours of FRP. The FRP progress report of 2/6/14 noted patient with significant improvement in his ability to manage his neck, shoulder, and right upper extremity pain despite exacerbation following PT sessions. Current medications list Ketamine cream, Naproxen, and Pantoprazole. Exam noted cervical range of 55 degrees flexion (40 degrees from initial eval) and 40 degrees extension (52 degrees from initial eval); tolerated 25 minutes on treadmill. Additional 20 hours of FRP are now being requested. The request for 20 hours of Functional Restoration Program was non-certified on 2/17/14 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

20 HOURS OF FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION PROGRAM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Functional Restoration Programs.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain Programs (Functional Restoration Programs) Page(s): 30-34, 49.

Decision rationale: Guidelines criteria does support to continue a functional restoration program beyond 20 sessions; however, requires clear rationale and functional improvement from treatment rendered along with reasonable goals to be achieved with specific individual care plans and focused goals. It appears that from the report that although the patient made some gains; they do not appear functionally changed or constructively improved without mention of potential for productive re-entry in the work force as further understanding and continued work to improve functional abilities are still pending. Overall, per the submitted assessment, the patient has unchanged or plateaued conditions with some increase in one area, unchanged in others, and actual decrease in other exercise functions without mention for change in medication profile or functional status. There is no documented increase in psychological condition, physical activities and independence, or functional improvement with the treatments already completed as noted by the provider for this patient who has completed the FRP. Submitted reports have not demonstrated clear rationale to support further sessions beyond the recommendations of the guidelines. The 20 hours of Functional Restoration Program is not medically necessary and appropriate.