

Case Number:	CM14-0030241		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	04/21/2013
Decision Date:	08/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/10/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 51-year-old male with a 4/21/13 date of injury. At the time (2/18/14) of the decision for four treatment sessions of neurostimulation, there is documentation of subjective neck and lower back pain and objective findings were tenderness at paracervical spine and lumbar paraspinal muscles. The patient's current diagnoses include lumbar radiculopathy, lumbar facet arthropathy, cervical radiculopathy, and cervical facet arthropathy. Treatment to date includes medications, epidural steroid injections, and physical therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Four treatment sessions of neurostimulation: Upheld

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

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. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for four treatment sessions of neurostimulation is not medically necessary.