

Case Number:	CM14-0034330		
Date Assigned:	09/12/2014	Date of Injury:	05/30/2012
Decision Date:	10/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/19/2014

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 46-year-old male with a 5/30/12 date of injury. At the time (3/11/14) of the Decision for home health attendant care; general household care for eight hours per day one times a week for twelve weeks, there is documentation of subjective (pain radiating down to shoulders) and objective (bilateral paracervical tenderness and painful range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (occipital neuralgia, cervical radiculopathy, cervical facet arthropathy, and failed cervical neck surgery syndrome), and treatment to date (medications, physical therapy, home exercise program, and psychotherapy). Medical reports identify that the patient is socially isolated and has difficulty talking care of his activities of daily living at times. There is no documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Home health attendant care; general household care for eight hours per day one times a week for twelve weeks.: 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 Home health services Page(s): 51.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of home health services. In addition, MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of no more than 35 hours per week. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of occipital neuralgia, cervical radiculopathy, cervical facet arthropathy, and failed cervical neck surgery syndrome. In addition, there is documentation of a request for home health attendant care for eight hours per day one times a week for twelve weeks. However, there is no documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for home health attendant care; general household care for eight hours per day one times a week for twelve weeks is not medically necessary.