

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0035471		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/23/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/06/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/25/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/10/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/21/2014

### 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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in Mississippi. 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 56-year-old female was reportedly injured on February 6, 2003. The mechanism of injury was not listed in these records reviewed. The most recent progress note, dated March 5, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of low back pain with radiculopathy. The physical examination demonstrated decreased sensation at the L3-L4 dermatomes quadriceps strength Diagnostic imaging studies objectified an L3-L4 disc bulge with central canal narrowing. A request was made for a Vascutherm intermittent PCD (Pneumatic Compression Device) device for deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and a lumbar wrap was not certified in the pre-authorization process on March 10, 2014.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Vascutherm Intermittent PCD for DVT, rental for 30 days: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Shoulder Chapter.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back - Lumbar & Thoracic (Acute & Chronic), Preoperative general, updated July 3, 2014.

**Decision rationale:** A Vascutherm Intermittent PCD (Pneumatic Compression Device) is indicated for prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT). The attached medical record does not state that the injured employee has a prior history of an additional risk for DVT formation than would be otherwise expected from lumbar spine surgery. There has been no mention of any additional need for prevention other than what is normally performed during surgery. Afterwards, the injured employee should be up in a short period of time and would not need any additional DVT prophylactic devices. Without specific justification, this request for a Vascutherm Intermittent PCD (Pneumatic Compression Device) is not medically necessary.

**Lumbar Wrap:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Shoulder Chapter.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back - Lumbar & Thoracic (Acute & Chronic), Lumbar supports, updated July 3, 2014.

**Decision rationale:** According to the Official Disability Guidelines, a lumbar support such as a wrap, is under study for postoperative use and does not have any specific recommendation for treatment after lumbar spine surgery. Without specific justification for a lumbar wrap, this is not medically necessary.