

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0038760		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/27/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/17/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/18/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/04/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/02/2014

### 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 Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 61 year old female who reportedly was injured on 09/17/13 when she fell at work. The records indicate that the injured worker complained of left knee pain, left shoulder pain, and neck pain. She has been treated conservatively with medications, physical therapy, home exercise program, and chiropractic care. Magnetic resonance image of the left knee was noted to show a medial meniscus tear and question of lateral meniscus tear, with mild degenerative changes also noted. Office visit note dated 02/07/14 reported that the injured worker came in on a scooter, and says she uses her crutches at home and at work most often. The injured worker states her left shoulder is hurting less, but she still has some limitation with abduction. Her neck is hurting worse. It was noted that when seen in September 2013 the injured worker had seen a chiropractor just prior and had gotten some treatment that returned her to baseline status. Since then her pain has returned, and she is getting frequent headaches which she believes to be secondary to her neck pain. The injured worker has no numbness or weakness in the upper extremities. Assessment included cervical strain. The injured worker would like to see the chiropractor for her neck; has been seeing him for a number of years and finds treatments helpful; however, last treatment (funded by injured worker) did not last as long as usual. The injured worker is to continue working light duty status.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**CHIROPRACTIC CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT 3 TIMES A WEEK FOR 4 WEEKS, NECK:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines MANUAL THERAPY AND MANIPULATION Page(s): 58 - 59.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual therapy & manipulation Page(s): 58.

**Decision rationale:** The guidelines referenced recommend chiropractic treatment for chronic pain if caused by musculoskeletal conditions. If chiropractic treatment is going to be effective, there should be some outward sign of subjective or objective improvement within the first 6 visits. Maximum duration of treatment is 8 weeks. Care beyond 8 weeks may be indicated for certain chronic pain patients in whom manipulation is helpful in improving function, decreasing pain and improving quality of life. There is no documentation in the clinical information provided of the total number of chiropractic visits previously completed and no objective evidence of substantial functional improvement in response to treatment. Based on the clinical information provided, chiropractic consultation and treatment 3 times a week for 4 weeks, neck is not medically necessary.