

Case Number:	CM14-0046852		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	06/11/2012
Decision Date:	08/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/14/2014

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in Utah. 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 53 year-old male. The patient's date of injury is June 11, 2012. The mechanism of injury is described as a 2000 pound barrel swinging into his chest. The patient has been diagnosed with status post lumbar surgery, persistent low back pain, bilateral lower extremity neuropathy, and edema. There is a general lack of clinical notes, but a summary of other records provided. The patient's treatments have included surgery, physical therapy, imaging studies and medications. The physical exam findings, dated May 15, 2013 show the patient to be 5'6" and 230 pounds. The patient's medications are not stated in the clinical documents.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

H Wave Home Use Rental, 1 month, Lumbar Spine: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines H-Wave Stimulation (HWT) Page(s): 117.

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines were reviewed in regards to this specific case, and the clinical documents were reviewed. The request is for H-Wave.. MTUS guidelines state the following: H Wave is not recommended as an isolated intervention, but a one-month trial

may be considered for a option for diabetic neuropathic pain, or chronic soft tissue inflammation, if used as an adjunct to a program and if the following modalities have failed, including physical therapy, conservative care, medications and a TENS unit. The clinical documents state that the patient had relief from pain during the Physical therapy sessions in which the H Wave unit was used. Patient notes a 30% improvement. According to the clinical documentation provided and current MTUS guidelines; H-Wave is indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.