

Case Number:	CM14-0048019		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	07/13/2010
Decision Date:	11/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/16/2014

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 North Carolina. 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 claimant had a date of injury of 7/13/2010. Diagnoses include lumbar disc disease, lumbar radiculopathy and chronic low back pain. Treatments have included physical therapy, home exercise program, medications and lumbar back support. The request is for LSO back brace purchase.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

DME-LSO Back Brace Purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 301.

Decision rationale: ACOEM chapter on back complaints states that "lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefits beyond the acute phase of symptom relief." The injury in this case is over four years old and a back brace is not medically necessary.