

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0053981		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/07/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/27/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/06/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/10/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/23/2014

### 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 Chiropractic, has a subspecialty in Pediatric Chiropractic and is licensed to practice in California, Washington, and New Mexico. 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 individual with an original date of injury of 8/27/09. The mechanism of injury occurred when the patient strained the low back while pulling weeds. Diagnoses include degenerative type disk bulges at L4-S1 with facet hypertrophy. The injured worker has undergone 17 approved chiropractic treatments, without documented objective, functional improvement. The disputed issue is a request for 12 additional chiropractic treatments for the lumbar spine. An earlier Medical Review made an adverse determination regarding this request. The rationale for this adverse determination was that the request does not meet medical guidelines of the CA MTUS.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**12 Sessions Chiropractic Lumbar Spine:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. Recurrences/flare-ups: Need to re-evaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months. The patient has already had 17 chiropractic treatments. There is insufficient documented objective, functional improvement from the previous chiropractic treatment and the request would be in excess of the Guidelines. The request for 12 additional chiropractic treatments for the lumbar spine is not medically necessary.