

Case Number:	CM14-0054448		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	01/28/2013
Decision Date:	09/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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 Internal Medicine & Emergency Medicine. 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:

This patient is a 48 year-old with a date of injury of 01/28/13. A progress report associated with the request for services, dated 03/28/14, identified subjective complaints of shoulder pain. Objective findings included tenderness to palpation with decreased range of motion of the right shoulder. Diagnoses included rotator cuff sprain/strain and status-post shoulder replacement. He underwent arthroscopy on the shoulder on 09/25/13. Treatment had included medications and 29 sessions of physical therapy. A Utilization Review determination was rendered on 04/12/14 recommending non-certification of "Additional post-op physical therapy x5 for the right shoulder".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Additional post-op physical therapy x5 for the right shoulder: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99, Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 11, 12, 27.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Postsurgical Guidelines for the shoulder recommend postsurgical physical medicine (PT) consisting of a general course of therapy of 24 visits over 14

weeks with a treatment period of 6 months. The general postoperative PT guidelines state that: "Treatment is provided to patients to facilitate postsurgical functional improvement". An initial course of therapy is to be prescribed that consists of half the number of visits specified in the general course of therapy. With documentation of functional improvement, a subsequent course of therapy may be prescribed within the general course guidelines. They further note that: "If it is determined that additional functional improvement can be accomplished after completion of the general course of therapy, physical medicine treatment may be continued up to the end of the postsurgical physical medicine period". In this case, the postoperative period as well as the total number of recommended visits has been exceeded. The request for 5 additional visits without documentation of functional improvement does not meet medical necessity.