

Case Number:	CM14-0064683		
Date Assigned:	07/11/2014	Date of Injury:	11/21/2006
Decision Date:	10/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/08/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Illinois. 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 49-year-old female who reported an injury on 11/21/2006. The mechanism of injury was not provided. On 04/15/2014, the injured worker presented with complaints of occasional swelling in the right wrist and hand with increased use. On examination, there was no swelling and range of motion was near full, but there is pain at maximum flexion. This note was handwritten and largely illegible. Prior therapy included physical therapy. The provider recommended physical therapy 2 times a week for 3 weeks for the cervical and bilateral shoulder; the provider's rationale was not provided. The Request for Authorization form was not included in the medical documents for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical Therapy 2x3 (6 Visits) Cervical/Bilateral Shoulder: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98.

Decision rationale: The request for Physical Therapy 2x3 (6 Visits) Cervical/Bilateral Shoulder is not medically necessary. The California MTUS state that active therapy is based on the

philosophy that therapeutic exercise and/or activity are beneficial for restoring flexibility, strength, endurance, function, range of motion, and can alleviate discomfort. Active therapy requires an internal effort by the individual to complete a specific exercise or task. Injured workers are instructed and expected to continue active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. There is a lack of documentation indicating the injured worker's prior course of physical therapy as well as the efficacy of the prior therapy. The guidelines recommend 10 visits of physical therapy for up to 4 weeks. The amount of physical therapy visits that have already been completed has not been provided. There are no significant barriers to transitioning the injured worker to in home independent program. As such, medical necessity has not been established.