

Case Number:	CM14-0069598		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2014	Date of Injury:	10/20/2009
Decision Date:	09/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/14/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 records presented for review indicate that this 46-year-old man was reportedly injured on August 20, 2009. The mechanism of injury is not listed in these records reviewed. A progress note dated May 19, 2014, states that there was authorization for transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion. The most recent progress note, dated April 7, 2014, indicates that there are ongoing complaints of low back pain radiating to the lower extremities. The physical examination demonstrated muscle spasms, tenderness, and guarding of the lumbar spine paravertebral muscles. There was decreased sensation over the bilateral L5 dermatomes. Diagnostic imaging studies were not reviewed during this visit. Previous treatment is unknown. A request had been made for a 21-day rental of a deep vein thrombosis prevention system and a cold therapy recovery system with half and full leg wrap and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on May 9, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Q-tech deep vein thrombosis prevention system up to 21 day rental: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, no specific citation noted.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee and Leg, Venous Thrombosis, Updated August 25, 2014.

Decision rationale: According to the attached medical record there is no indication that the injured employee will not be ambulatory after the proposed lumbar spine surgery to help prevent the formation of a deep venous thrombosis. Therefore, there is no indication for deep vein thrombosis prevention system. Considering this, the request for a Q-Tech deep vein thrombosis prevention system 21 day rental is not medically necessary.

Q-tech cold therapy recovery system with half and full leg wrap: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, no specific citation noted.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee and Leg, Continuous Flow Cryotherapy, Updated August 25, 2014.

Decision rationale: While a cold therapy recovery system can be beneficial in decreasing swelling, pain, and medication usage after surgery, it is unclear why there is a request for a cold therapy recovery system for the leg when the injured employee scheduled for low back surgery. Without further clarification, this request for a Q-Tech cold therapy recovery system with a half and full leg wrap is not medically necessary.