

Case Number:	CM14-0075049		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	09/30/2013
Decision Date:	08/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/22/2014

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 licensed in Chiropractic, has a subspecialty in Pediatric Chiropractic and is licensed to practice in California. 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 47-year-old individual with an original date of injury of 9/30/13. The mechanism of injury occurred when the patient was picking up a full box of grapes. An MRI on 11/27/13 noted disc bulges throughout the lumbar spine, central canal stenosis and facet joint hypertrophy. The patient has received physical therapy, epidural steroid injections and medications. There was no documented objective, functional improvement from the physical therapy received. The disputed issue is a request for 24 chiropractic treatments and evaluation. 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 California MTUS Guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Chiropractic evaluation and treatment x 24 sessions: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 58.

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. In this case, the patient has received prior physical therapy treatment, but there is no documented objective, functional improvement. The request for 24 chiropractic treatments and evaluation is non-certified.