

Case Number:	CM14-0075176		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	01/12/2012
Decision Date:	09/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/22/2014
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 Board Certified in Family Practice 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:

64 yr. old female claimant sustained a work injury on 1/12/12 involving the low back . She was diagnosed with anterior cervical discectomy, right shoulder arthroscopy, spondylolistheses and severe canal stenosis of L4-L5. A progress note on 4/9/14 indicated the claimant had continued low back pain. She had been using a walker. Exam findings were notable for painful range of motion. The treating physician recommended she undergo a lumbar spinal fusion. A pre-op clearance and request for surgery was subsequently made along with the request for a Cybertech back brace.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

DME CYBERTECH BACK BRACE PURCHASE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 301.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM guidelines, back braces /lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. The claimant has had chronic back pain. There is lack of evidence to support a Cybertech Brace. In

addition, there is no indication for purchase or indefinite use. The request for a brace is not medically necessary.