

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0076701		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/18/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/15/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/25/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/09/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/27/2014

### 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, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

This is a patient with a date of injury of 6/15/13. A utilization review determination dated 5/9/14 recommends non-certification of Physical Therapy. Thirty prior Physical Therapy sessions were noted after right shoulder surgery 9/16/13. 5/5/14 medical report identifies stiffness mainly with internal rotation. She is performing PT on her own. On exam, forward elevation is to 150 degrees with ER to 60 degrees and IR to buttock. Recommendations include continue exercises at home and progress to regular activity 5/19/14.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**EXT P/O PT RT Shoulder 2X4:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99 of 127.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for physical therapy, the California MTUS supports up to 24 PT sessions after shoulder surgery and notes that patients are instructed and expected to continue active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. Within the documentation available for review, there is documentation of

completion of 30 prior PT sessions, but there is no documentation of remaining deficits that cannot be addressed within the context of an independent home exercise program, yet are expected to improve with formal supervised therapy. Furthermore, there is no rationale for continued PT beyond the recommended number of sessions per the California MTUS. In light of the above issues, the currently requested physical therapy is not medically necessary.