

Case Number:	CM14-0079921		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	02/23/1998
Decision Date:	08/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/30/2014

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 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 66-year-old female with a 2/23/98 date of injury. At the time (5/21/14) of request for authorization for Home attendant care to assist with heavy housekeeping, laundry, changing linens twice a month and Sleep Comfort adjustable bed Prodigy model, there is documentation of subjective (continued neck pain that travels down both shoulders and arms with weakness in hands) and objective (cervical spine tenderness and pain, muscle spasticity, restricted motion, healed scars elbows and wrists with tenderness and pain, lumbar spine tenderness and pain with muscle spasm, limited ROM, and ambulates with cane) findings, current diagnoses (cervical spine sprain/strain and lumbar spine sprain/strain), and treatment to date (lumbar epidural steroid injection). Regarding Home attendant care to assist with heavy housekeeping, laundry, changing linens twice a month, there is no documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis. Regarding the Sleep Comfort adjustable bed Prodigy model, there is no documentation that that the patient's condition requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible in an ordinary bed or that the patient's condition requires special attachments that cannot be fixed and used on an ordinary bed.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Home attendant care to assist with heavy housekeeping, laundry, changing linens twice a month: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home health services Page(s): 51.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, identifies documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of home health services. In addition, the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of no more than 35 hours per week. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical spine sprain/strain and lumbar spine sprain/strain. However, there is no documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Home attendant care to assist with heavy housekeeping, laundry, changing linens twice a month is not medically necessary.

Sleep Comfort adjustable bed Prodigy model: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines-Low Back; http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/500_599/0543.

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, Durable medical equipment (DME).

Decision rationale: The MTUS does not address this issue. The Official Disability Guidelines supports durable medical equipment if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of durable medical equipment (DME). Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual identifies documentation, that the patient's condition requires positioning of the body (e.g., to alleviate pain, promote good body alignment, prevent contractures, avoid respiratory infections) in ways not feasible in an ordinary bed or that the patient's condition requires special attachments that cannot be fixed and used on an ordinary bed, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of an adjustable bed. Within the medical information available, for review there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical spine sprain/strain and lumbar spine sprain/strain. However, there is no documentation that that the patient's condition requires positioning of the body (to alleviate pain, promote good body alignment, prevent contractures, avoid respiratory infections) in ways not feasible in an ordinary bed or that the patient's condition requires special attachments that cannot be fixed and used on an ordinary bed.

Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Sleep Comfort adjustable bed Prodigy model is not medically necessary.