

Case Number:	CM14-0187117		
Date Assigned:	11/17/2014	Date of Injury:	06/02/2011
Decision Date:	01/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/10/2014

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 General Preventive Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Indiana. 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 employee is a 57 year old female with date of injury of 6/2/2011. A review of the medical records indicates that the patient is undergoing treatment for left shoulder rotator cuff tear and repair. Subjective complaints include continued pain and limited movement of left shoulder. Objective findings include limited range of motion of the left shoulder with tenderness to palpation of the rotator cuff; sensory and reflex exam normal in the upper extremity. Treatment has included 18 of 24 approved physical therapy sessions, Ibuprofen, Tramadol, and Hydrocodone. The utilization review dated 10/30/2014 non-certified 6 additional sessions of physical therapy for left shoulder.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Post-op Physical Therapy x 6 for the left shoulder: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Shoulder (Acute & Chronic), Physical Therapy, ODG Preface - Physical Therapy

Decision rationale: California MTUS guidelines refer to physical medicine guidelines for physical therapy. "Allow for fading of treatment frequency (from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less), plus active self-directed home Physical Medicine." Regarding physical therapy, ODG states "Patients should be formally assessed after a "six-visit clinical trial" to see if the patient is moving in a positive direction, no direction, or a negative direction (prior to continuing with the physical therapy); & (6) When treatment duration and/or number of visits exceeds the guideline, exceptional factors should be noted." At the conclusion of this trial, additional treatment would be assessed based upon documented objective, functional improvement, and appropriate goals for the additional treatment. The employee has not finished the initial 24 sessions that were approved. The medical documents fail to show "documented objective, functional improvement and appropriate goals for the additional treatment". Therefore, the request for Post-op Physical Therapy x 6 for the left shoulder is not medically necessary.