

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0193160		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/26/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/01/1996
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/13/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/04/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/18/2014

### 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 Emergency Medicine 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 51 year-old female, who sustained an injury on April 1, 1996. The mechanism of injury is not noted. Diagnostics have included: August 11, 2014 ESR reported as showing an elevation of 50 and October 2014 ESR at 62. Treatments have included: NSAID and analgesic medications, carpal tunnel releases, bilateral knee replacements. The current diagnoses are: rheumatoid arthritis, repetitive strain syndrome, s/p bilateral carpal tunnel releases, s/p bilateral DeQuervain's releases, s/p bilateral knee replacements. The stated purpose of the request for Nursing Education and visit for administration of Orencia Injections was to provide a costimulation agent for her rheumatoid arthritis, due to failed or allergic trials to biologic agents and anti-TNF inhibitors. The request for Nursing Education and visit for administration of Orencia Injections was denied on November 4, 2014, citing a lack of documentation of the injured worker being homebound and that Orencia injections can be best accomplished in a medical facility. Per the report dated October 7, 2014, the treating physician noted complaints of all of her joints hurting, especially the left shoulder. Exam findings including marked limitation of left shoulder range of motion, cervical paraspinal muscle tenderness, left elbow warmth with tenderness and swelling, tenderness to bilateral MCP joints with swelling, tenderness to both knees and ankles, lumbar paraspinal muscle tenderness.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Nursing Education and visit for administration of Orencia Injections:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** The requested Nursing Education and visit for administration of Orencia Injections, is not medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) 2009: Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, Page 51, Home health services, note that home health services are "Recommended only for otherwise recommended medical treatment for patients who are homebound, on a part-time or "intermittent" basis, generally up to no more than 35 hours per week. Medical treatment does not include homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom when this is the only care needed." The injured worker has complaints all of her joints hurting, especially the left shoulder. The treating physician has documented marked limitation of left shoulder range of motion, cervical paraspinal muscle tenderness, left elbow warmth with tenderness and swelling, tenderness to bilateral MCP joints with swelling, tenderness to both knees and ankles, lumbar paraspinal muscle tenderness. Although Orencia injections may be suitable as an option for treating this patient's rheumatoid arthritis, the treating physician has not documented the medical necessity for these injections to be done in a home environment. The criteria noted above not having been met, Nursing Education and visit for administration of Orencia Injections is not medically necessary.