

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0194149		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/01/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/24/2008
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/14/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/08/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/19/2014

### 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 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:

This patient had a date of injury on 10/27/2008. The patient started to have pain in her bilateral hands, wrist, arm and neck. Medications include tramadol and trazodone. Diagnosis includes: cervical spine sprain/strain, bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, chronic pain syndrome.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Retrospective: Neuromuscular stim electronic DOS: 8/5/10 for the bilateral wrists/cervical spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Neuromuscular stimulation (NMES) devices).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Neuromuscular electrical stimulation Page(s): 121.

**Decision rationale:** According to guidelines it states neuromuscular electrical stimulation is not recommended. NMES is used primarily as part of a rehabilitation program following stroke and there is no evidence to support its use in chronic pain. There are no intervention trials suggesting benefit from NMES for chronic pain. Based on this, it is not medically necessary.