

Case Number:	CM14-0194492		
Date Assigned:	12/02/2014	Date of Injury:	10/18/2013
Decision Date:	01/26/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/20/2014

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 Practice, 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:

Patient has a date of injury on 10/18/2013. Mechanism of injury is not stated in the medical records. Diagnosis includes: Cervicalgia, pain in thoracic spine, and lumbago. Treatment includes physical therapy and TENS.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Purchase of Home H-Wave Device: 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 H-wave stimulation Page(s): 117.

Decision rationale: According to guidelines H wave stimulation is not recommended as an isolated intervention, but a one-month home-based trial of H Wave stimulation may be considered as a noninvasive conservative option for diabetic neuropathic or chronic soft tissue inflammation if used as an adjunct to a program of evidence-based functional restoration, and only following failure of initially recommended conservative care, including recommended physical therapy (i.e., exercise) and medications, plus transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation

(TENS). According to the medical records the patient has not tried these treatment options and therefore the request is not medically necessary.