

Case Number:	CM14-0195152		
Date Assigned:	12/02/2014	Date of Injury:	03/30/2013
Decision Date:	01/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/21/2014

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, has a subspecialty in Pain 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:

Regarding the request for exercise ball for the lumbar spine, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines support the use of aerobic activity to avoid deconditioning. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) states that exercise is recommended. They go on to state that there is no sufficient evidence to support the recommendation of any particular exercise regimen over any other exercise regimen. Guidelines do not support the need for additional exercise equipment, unless there is documentation of failure of an independent exercise program without equipment, despite physician oversight and modification. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the patient has failed an independent program of home exercise without equipment. Additionally, there is no statement indicating how the requested exercise equipment will improve the patient's ability to perform a home exercise program, or that the patient has been instructed in the appropriate use of such equipment to decrease the chance of further injury. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested exercise ball for the lumbar spine is not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Exercise Ball for the Lumbar Spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 46-47. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines Treatment Index, 12th Edition (web), 2014, Knee and Leg - Home exercise equipment/ DME

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 46-47 of 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Exercise Ball for the Lumbar Spine, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines support the use of aerobic activity to avoid deconditioning. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) states that exercise is recommended. They go on to state that there is no sufficient evidence to support the recommendation of any particular exercise regimen over any other exercise regimen. Guidelines do not support the need for additional exercise equipment, unless there is documentation of failure of an independent exercise program without equipment, despite physician oversight and modification. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the patient has failed an independent program of home exercise without equipment. Additionally, there is no statement indicating how the requested exercise equipment will improve the patient's ability to perform a home exercise program, or that the patient has been instructed in the appropriate use of such equipment to decrease the chance of further injury. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested Exercise Ball for the Lumbar Spine is not medically necessary.