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| Case Number: | CM14-0197784 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 12/08/2014 | Date of Injury: | 10/23/2001 |
| Decision Date: | 01/23/2015 | UR Denial Date: | 10/29/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 11/25/2014 |

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 New York. 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 patient is a 63-year-old female who was injured on October 23, 2001. The patient continued to experience back pain and cramping bilateral inner thighs. Physical examination was notable for bilateral buttocks tenderness. Diagnoses included degeneration of lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc and lumbago. Treatment included structural integration therapy. Request for authorization for 10 sessions of structural integration therapy was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

10 sessions of structural integration therapy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 146.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Structural Integration, an Alternative Method of Manual Therapy and Sensorimotor Education , J Altern Complement Med. Oct 2011; 17(10): 891-899

Decision rationale: Structural integration (SI) is a system of manual therapy and sensorimotor education that aims to improve human biomechanical functioning as a whole rather than to treat particular symptoms. Manual force is applied to the soft tissues in a manner that is generally more gradual and prolonged than is typical of chiropractic or osteopathic manipulation, yet with

more pressure than is typical of massage. The evidence for clinical effectiveness and mechanisms alike is severely limited by small samples sizes and the absence of placebo or other comparison control arms in most studies. In particular, the contribution of placebo effects to reductions in pain and to psychologic benefits may be significant and should be investigated. Structural integration is considered an alternative medical treatment. Studies regarding effectiveness are insufficient to determine efficacy and safety. The request should not be authorized.