

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0198119		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/08/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/23/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/20/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/17/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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 Orthopedic Surgery, has a subspecialty in Orthopedic Spine Surgery 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 has a date of injury of April 23, 2003. The patient has chronic low back pain. The patient low back surgery in October 2014. The patient has chronic low back pain and left leg pain. The patient had a spinal cord stimulator placed which helped him somewhat. Previous treatments include physical therapy medications and injections. Physical examination shows reduced range of motion of the back and positive straight leg raise. There is weakness of the EHL. The patient has been indicated for lumbar decompressive surgery from L2-L5 laminectomies and foraminotomies. At issue is whether DVT prophylaxis unit rental for 30 days postop is medically necessary.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **DVT Prophylaxis Unit Rental x 30 Days: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Low Back Pain Chapter.

**Decision rationale:** ODG guidelines do not recommend 30 days of DVT prophylaxis after lumbar decompressive surgery. Medical literature does not document a high incidence of DVT

after lumbar laminectomy surgery without fusion. This is a rather straightforward in simple surgery in which the patient can be mobilized quickly after the surgery. The incidence of DVT is low. Medical literature does not support the use of 30 days of DVT prophylaxis. Guidelines for DVT prophylaxis not met.