

Case Number:	CM14-0207878		
Date Assigned:	12/19/2014	Date of Injury:	09/29/2012
Decision Date:	02/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/11/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabn

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

If postsurgical physical medicine is medically necessary, an initial course of therapy may be prescribed. With documentation of functional improvement, a subsequent course of therapy shall be prescribed within the parameters of the general course of therapy applicable to the specific surgery. If it is determined that additional functional improvement can be accomplished after completion of the general course of therapy, physical medicine treatment may be continued up to the end of the postsurgical physical medicine period. "Initial course of therapy" means one half of the number of visits specified in the general course of therapy for the specific surgery in the postsurgical physical medicine treatment recommendations. Guidelines support up to 24 visits over 14 weeks for shoulder arthroscopy. In the present case, it is noted that the window of opportunity to proceed with right shoulder arthroscopy has expired. The provider has noted that he is requesting an extension. The medical necessity for post-operative physical therapy is dependent on establishing that the request for surgery has been approved, which is unclear in this case. Therefore, the request for physical therapy three times four was not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical therapy three times four: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 98 and 99.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: If postsurgical physical medicine is medically necessary, an initial course of therapy may be prescribed. With documentation of functional improvement, a subsequent course of therapy shall be prescribed within the parameters of the general course of therapy applicable to the specific surgery. If it is determined that additional functional improvement can be accomplished after completion of the general course of therapy, physical medicine treatment may be continued up to the end of the postsurgical physical medicine period. "Initial course of therapy" means one half of the number of visits specified in the general course of therapy for the specific surgery in the postsurgical physical medicine treatment recommendations. Guidelines support up to 24 visits over 14 weeks for shoulder arthroscopy. In the present case, it is noted that the window of opportunity to proceed with right shoulder arthroscopy has expired. The provider has noted that he is requesting an extension. The medical necessity for post-operative physical therapy is dependent on establishing that the request for surgery has been approved, which is unclear in this case. Therefore, the request for physical therapy three times four was not medically necessary.