

Case Number:	CM14-0208915		
Date Assigned:	12/22/2014	Date of Injury:	05/20/2013
Decision Date:	02/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/15/2014

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 licensed in Chiropractor (DC) 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:

The patient is a 42 year old male who sustained injuries to his neck and left upper extremity on 05/20/2013 while performing his usual and customary duties as a police officer. The mechanism of injury consists of repetitive pulling of K9 police dogs. Per the PTP's first report of injury the patient "complains of neck pain and left upper extremity pain." The patient has been treated with medications, physical therapy and 8 sessions of chiropractic care. The diagnosis assigned by the PTP for the neck is cervical brachial syndrome with history of cervical disc disease. An MRI study of the cervical spine revealed "3 mm bilateral paracentral protrusions at C5-6 with moderate central canal stenosis and a 3 mm right paracentral protrusion at C6-7". An EMG study of the upper extremities has been normal. The PTP is requesting 6 additional sessions of chiropractic care to the cervical spine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

6 Outpatient Additional Chiropractic Treatment Sessions to The Cervical: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Neck & Upper Back Chapter, Manipulation Section and the MTUS Definitions Page q

Decision rationale: The injured worker is a police officer who has sustained injuries to his neck and left shoulder and left arm. The PTP is asking for additional chiropractic sessions to the neck. The MTUS ODG Neck & Upper Back Chapter for Recurrences/flare-ups states : "Need to re-evaluate treatment success, if RTW achieved then 1-2 visits every 4-6 months when there is evidence of significant functional limitations on exam that are likely to respond to repeat chiropractic care." The MTUS-Definitions page 1 defines functional improvement as a "clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam, performed and documented as part of the evaluation and management visit billed under the Official Medical Fee Schedule (OMFS) pursuant to Sections 9789.10-9789.11; and a reduction in the dependency on continued medical treatment." The patient has received 8 sessions of chiropractic care with no evidence of objective functional improvement, per the records provided. The PTP describes some Improvements with treatment but no objective measurements are listed. The records provided by the primary treating physician do not show objective functional improvements with ongoing chiropractic treatments rendered. The chiropractic care records are not present in the records provided. The request for 6 additional chiropractic sessions to the cervical spine is not medically necessary and appropriate.