

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0007250		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/26/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/30/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/13/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/06/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/13/2015

### 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: New Jersey  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

This 44-year-old female worker sustained work-related injuries on 11/30/10, which led to multiple health conditions. She is diagnosed with acquired angioedema, chronic urticaria, asthma, diabetes mellitus, diabetic neuropathy and hypertensive disorder. Previous treatments include physical and occupational therapy, allergy-immunology evaluation, medications, psychiatry and surgery. The treating provider requests a full size hospital bed air mattress, lift chair and bedside table. The Utilization Review on 1/6/15 non-certified a full size hospital bed air mattress, lift chair and bedside table, citing Blue Cross of California Medical Policy Durable Medical Equipment CG-DME-10; the documentation did not substantiate the medical necessity for the items requested.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Full sized hospital bed air mattress:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Blue Cross of California Medical Policy - Durable Medical Equipment CG-DME-10

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Knee and Leg section, DME

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS Guidelines are silent in regards to durable medical equipment (DME). The ODG, however, states that durable medical equipment may be recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of a DME: 1. Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; 2. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; 3. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and 4. Is appropriate for use in a patient's home. In the case of this worker, the full sized hospital bed air mattress was requested, however, there was not sufficient explanation as to the specific reasoning for the request. Otherwise, according to the notes provided for review, there was no evidence to suggest the mattress met a medical need. Therefore, the mattress will be considered medically unnecessary.

**Lift Chair:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Blue Cross of California Medical Policy - Durable Medical Equipment CG-DME-10

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Knee and Leg section, DME

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS Guidelines are silent in regards to durable medical equipment (DME). The ODG, however, states that durable medical equipment may be recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of a DME: 1. Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; 2. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; 3. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and 4. Is appropriate for use in a patient's home. In the case of this worker, the lift chair was requested, however, there was not sufficient explanation as to the specific reasoning for the request. Otherwise, according to the notes provided for review, there was no evidence to suggest the lift chair met a medical need. Therefore, the lift chair will be considered medically unnecessary.

**Bed side table:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Blue Cross of California Medical Policy - Durable Medical Equipment CG-DME-10

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Knee and Leg section, DME

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS Guidelines are silent in regards to durable medical equipment (DME). The ODG, however, states that durable medical equipment may be recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of a

DME: 1. Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; 2. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; 3. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and 4. Is appropriate for use in a patient's home. In the case of this worker, the bed side table was requested, however, there was not sufficient explanation as to the specific reasoning for the request. Otherwise, according to the notes provided for review, there was no evidence to suggest the table met a medical need. Therefore, the bed side table will be considered medically unnecessary.