

Case Number:	CM15-0100667		
Date Assigned:	06/03/2015	Date of Injury:	10/01/2012
Decision Date:	07/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/26/2015

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, Alabama, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine

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 45-year-old man sustained an industrial injury on 10/1/2012. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Evaluations include left shoulder MRI dated 10/21/2014 and undated left shoulder x-rays. Diagnoses include left shoulder labral tear. Treatment has included oral medications, subacromial injection, and surgical intervention. Physician notes dated 4/14/2015 show complaints of left shoulder pain. Recommendations include further injections, possible further surgical intervention, and spinal Q brace.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Spinal Q postural brace purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 301.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. A lumbar corset is recommended for prevention and not for treatment. Therefore, the request for Spinal Q postural brace purchase is not medically necessary.