

Case Number:	CM15-0132311		
Date Assigned:	07/20/2015	Date of Injury:	11/11/2014
Decision Date:	08/25/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/24/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/08/2015

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: Pennsylvania, Ohio, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 injured worker is a 45 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 11/11/2014. She reported pain from her neck to her waist due to falling on a chair. Diagnoses have included sprain-strain of neck, sprain-strain of thoracic region, sprain-strain of lumbar region, cervicalgia and lumbago. Treatment to date has included physical therapy, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and medication. According to the progress report dated 6/16/2015, the injured worker stated that nothing had changed since the last visit. Objective findings revealed tenderness to palpation to the cervical and lumbar spine. Lumbar facet loading test and straight leg raise were positive bilaterally. Prescriptions were given for Norco and Fexmid. Authorization was requested for physical therapy three times a week for four weeks for the cervical spine, thoracic spine and lumbar spine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical therapy (PT) 3 x 4 weeks for cervical spine, thoracic spine and lumbar spine:
 Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

Decision rationale: MTUS encourages physical therapy with an emphasis on active forms of treatment and patient education. This guideline recommends transition from supervised therapy to active independent home rehabilitation. Given the timeline of this injury and past treatment, the patient would be anticipated to have previously transitioned to such an independent home rehabilitation program. The records do not provide a rationale at this time for additional supervised rather than independent rehabilitation. This request is not medically necessary.