

Case Number:	CM15-0136132		
Date Assigned:	07/24/2015	Date of Injury:	09/12/2014
Decision Date:	08/25/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/14/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Chiropractor, Oriental 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:

The injured worker is a 50-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 9/12/2014 resulting in left knee, ankle, and foot pain. He was diagnosed with tibia and fibula fractures. Treatment has included fixation surgery of tibia and fibula fractures, physical therapy, acupuncture which he has reported to be helpful in pain reduction, and medication. The injured worker continues to report lower left extremity pain, weakness, and stiffness. The treating physician's plan of care includes 12 chiropractic treatments with supervised physiotherapy to the left knee, ankle, and foot. Work status is modified duty or temporary disability if modified work is not available as of June 15, 2015.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retro: chiropractic treatment with supervised physiotherapy to the left knee and left ankle/foot for twelve (12) visits (start date: 05/06/15): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines manual therapy & manipulation Page(s): 58.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation Page(s): 58-59.

Decision rationale: Patient has not had prior chiropractic treatments. Provider requested initial trial of 12 chiropractic treatment for knees and ankle pain. Per guidelines 4-6 treatments are supported for initial course of Chiropractic with evidence of functional improvement prior to consideration of additional care. Requested visits exceed the quantity of initial Chiropractic visits supported by the cited guidelines. Additional visits may be rendered if the patient has documented objective functional improvement. MTUS- Definition 9792.20 (f) Functional improvement means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam. Furthermore MTUS guidelines do not recommend Chiropractic for knee or ankle pain. Per guidelines and review of evidence, 12 Chiropractic visits are not medically necessary.