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| <b>Case Number:</b>   | CM15-0138550 |                              |            |
| <b>Date Assigned:</b> | 07/28/2015   | <b>Date of Injury:</b>       | 04/15/2014 |
| <b>Decision Date:</b> | 08/26/2015   | <b>UR Denial Date:</b>       | 06/18/2015 |
| <b>Priority:</b>      | Standard     | <b>Application Received:</b> | 07/16/2015 |

### 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 44 year old male with an industrial injury dated 04/15/2014. The injury is documented as occurring when he was moving boxes and developed low back pain. His diagnoses included lumbar radiculitis, rule out disc disease and sacroiliac joint dysfunction. Comorbid condition was hypertensive nephropathy. Prior treatment included anti-inflammatory medications, lumbar brace and diagnostics. He presents on 06/05/2015 with complaints of low back pain radiating to the right leg. Physical exam noted tenderness of paravertebral muscles and sacroiliac joint with limited motion of the lumbar spine. Treatment plan included chiropractic treatments. Treatment request is for chiropractic therapy 2 times a week for 4 weeks for the lumbar spine.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Chiropractic therapy 2 times a week for 4 weeks for the lumbar spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual therapy & manipulation Page(s): 58-60.

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

**Decision rationale:** Provider requested initial trial of 8 chiropractic treatment for lumbar spine which were non-certified by the utilization review. 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. Per guidelines and review of evidence, 8 Chiropractic visits are not medically necessary.