

Case Number:	CM15-0020453		
Date Assigned:	02/10/2015	Date of Injury:	07/14/2014
Decision Date:	03/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/21/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/03/2015

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 24 year old female who reported neck, low back, and arm pain from injury sustained on 07/14/14 while she was involved in a motor vehicle accident. Patient is diagnosed with cervical spine strain, lumbar spine sprain/strain, left elbow contusion, and trunk contusion. Patient has been treated with medication and chiropractic. Per medical notes dated 10/06/14, patient's neck pain has improved significantly but there was still tenderness in the mid back. On 01/07/15, patient requested additional 6 chiropractic sessions which were non-certified by the utilization review. Therefore, the Utilization Review decision was appealed for an Independent Medical Review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Chiropractic Therapy Times Six for the Cervical Spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manipulation Page(s): 58.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 175, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation Page(s): 58-59.

Decision rationale: Patient has had prior chiropractic treatments; however, clinical notes fail to document any functional improvement with prior care. Provider requested additional 6 chiropractic sessions for cervical spine. Medical reports reveal little evidence of significant changes or improvement in findings, revealing a patient who has not achieved significant objective functional improvement to warrant additional treatment. Per guidelines, 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 review of evidence and guidelines, 6 Chiropractic visits are not medically necessary.