

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0215558		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/05/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/16/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/16/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/27/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/02/2015

### 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: North Carolina

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

### 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 38 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4-16-13. The documentation on 10-19-15 noted that the injured worker has complaints of neck pain that radiculates to the arm and low back pain that radiculates to the left and has difficulty sleeping. The injured workers lumbar flexion is 40 percent with paraspinal muscle guarding. The diagnoses have included cervical degenerative disc disease; lumbar degenerative disc disease; cervical radiculopathy and lumbar radiculopathy. Treatment to date has included home exercise program. The original utilization review (10-26-15) non-certified the request for 1 Functional capacity evaluation. Several documents within the submitted medical records are difficult to decipher.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**1 Functional capacity evaluation:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) functional capacity evaluation.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS and the ACOEM do not specifically address functional capacity evaluations. Per the ODG, functional capacity evaluations (FCE) are recommended prior to admission to work hardening programs, with preference for assessments tailored to a specific job. Not recommended as a routine use as part of occupational rehab or screening or generic assessments in which the question is whether someone can do any type of job. Consider FCE: 1. Case management is hampered by complex issues such as: a. Prior unsuccessful RTW attempts b. Conflicting medical reporting on precaution and/or fitness for modified jobs c. Injuries that require detailed exploration of the worker's abilities. 2. Timing is appropriate a. Close or at MMI/all key medical reports secured; b. Additional/secondary conditions clarified There is no indication in the provided documentation of prior failed return to work attempts or conflicting medical reports or injuries that require detailed exploration of the worker's abilities. Therefore, criteria have not been met as set forth by the ODG and the request is not medically necessary.