

Case Number:	CM15-0056859		
Date Assigned:	04/01/2015	Date of Injury:	04/01/2013
Decision Date:	05/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/25/2015

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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

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 51 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 04/01/13. Initial complaints and diagnoses are not available. Treatments to date include medications and occupational therapy. Diagnostic studies include MRIs. Current complaints are not discussed. In an operative note dated 01/26/15, the treating provider reports she is status post a right carpal tunnel release. The requested treatment is occupational therapy to the right wrist. A progress report dated January 12, 2015 indicates that the patient has undergone 7 out of 12 occupational therapy visits.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Occupational therapy 2xWk x 4Wks for the right wrist: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 16.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 15.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for physical therapy, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend a short course of active therapy with continuation of active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. ODG has more specific criteria for the ongoing use of physical therapy. ODG recommends a trial of physical therapy. If the trial of physical therapy results in objective functional improvement, as well as ongoing objective treatment goals, then additional therapy may be considered. ODG recommends 1-3 visits for medical treatment of CTS and 3-8 visits following surgical treatment of CTS. Within the documentation available for review, there is documentation of completion of prior PT sessions, but there is no documentation of specific objective functional improvement with the previous sessions and remaining deficits that cannot be addressed within the context of an independent home exercise program, yet are expected to improve with formal supervised therapy. Furthermore, the request exceeds the amount of PT recommended by the CA MTUS. In light of the above issues, the currently requested additional physical therapy is not medically necessary.