

Case Number:	CM15-0057121		
Date Assigned:	04/02/2015	Date of Injury:	12/10/1996
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/26/2015
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

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 71 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 12/10/96. She subsequently reports a 15 year history of low back pain. Diagnoses include postlaminectomy syndrome lumbar region, lumbar sprain and strain and spinal stenosis. Diagnostic testing has included x-rays and MRIs. Treatments to date have included modified work duty, physical therapy, surgery and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience low back pain with radiation to the lower extremities. A request for Purchase Of LSO (lumbosacral) Brace for Lumbar Injury, as outpatient was made by the treating physician.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Purchase Of LSO (lumbosacral) Brace for Lumbar Injury, as outpatient: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 287-328.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): Low Back Chapter, page 301. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Low Back, Back brace, page 372.

Decision rationale: There is no indication of instability, compression fracture, or spondylolisthesis precautions to warrant a lumbar support beyond the acute injury phase. Reports have not adequately demonstrated the medical indication for the custom back brace. Based on the information provided and the peer-reviewed, nationally recognized guidelines, the request for an LSO cannot be medically recommended. CA MTUS states that lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. This claimant is well beyond the acute phase for this chronic injury. In addition, ODG states that lumbar supports are not recommended for prevention and is under study for the treatment of nonspecific LBP and only recommended as an option for compression fractures and specific treatment of spondylolisthesis, documented instability, post-operative treatment, not demonstrated here. The Purchase Of LSO (lumbosacral) Brace for Lumbar Injury, as outpatient is not medically necessary and appropriate.