

Case Number:	CM15-0087277		
Date Assigned:	05/11/2015	Date of Injury:	05/14/2013
Decision Date:	06/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/09/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/06/2015

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: Chiropractic

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 44-year-old female sustained an industrial injury on 5/14/13. She subsequently reported buttock and low back pain. Diagnoses include lumbosacral sprain and lumbar radiculitis. Treatments to date include chiropractic care, MRI testing and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience low back pain with radiation to the right lower extremity. On examination, the injured worker's objective lumbosacral findings were unchanged. The treating physician made a request for Chiropractic 6 additional visits 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 6 visits lumbar spine: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation Page(s): 58-60.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy & Manipulation Page(s): 58. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Low Back Chapter, Manipulation Section/MTUS Definitions Page 1.

Decision rationale: The medical treatment records in the materials submitted for review do not show objective functional improvement with the past chiropractic care rendered. The past chiropractic treatment notes are not available for review. The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the ODG Low Back Chapter recommends additional chiropractic care with evidence of objective functional improvement, 1-2 sessions every 4-6 months. The MTUS-Definitions page 1 defines functional improvement as a "clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam, performed and documented as part of the evaluation and management visit billed under the Official Medical Fee Schedule (OMFS) pursuant to Sections 9789.10-9789.11; and a reduction in the dependency on continued medical treatment." The ODG Low Back Chapter and The Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guides recommend additional chiropractic care for flare-ups "with evidence of objective functional improvement." No objective functional gains have been evidenced with the past rendered chiropractic care. I find that the 6 additional chiropractic sessions requested to the lumbar spine to not be medically necessary and appropriate.