

Case Number:	CM14-0120038		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	06/16/2008
Decision Date:	10/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/30/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 records presented for review indicate that this 44 year-old female was reportedly injured on 6/16/2008. The most recent progress note, dated 6/25/2014, indicates that there are ongoing complaints of bilateral upper extremity pain. The physical examination demonstrated normal findings; no musculoskeletal exam was performed on the status service. No recent diagnostic studies are available for review. Previous treatment includes medications, and conservative treatment. A request had been made for physical therapy 12 sessions of the cervical spine and was non-certified in the pre-authorization process on 7/23/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical therapy for the cervical spine, QTY: 12 sessions: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 98-99.

Decision rationale: MTUS guidelines support the use of physical therapy for the management of chronic pain specifically myalgia and radiculitis; and recommend a maximum of 10 visits. The claimant has multiple chronic complaints and review of the available medical records fails to

demonstrate an improvement in pain or function. In the absence of clinical documentation to support excessive/additional visits, this request is not considered medically necessary.