

Case Number:	CM14-0147380		
Date Assigned:	09/15/2014	Date of Injury:	09/30/2011
Decision Date:	10/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/10/2014

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 9/30/11. Patient was lifting packages from the floor when another package fell and struck him on the neck and upper back. Diagnosis include cervical radiculopathy with lumbar myofascial strain. Patient has had physical therapy, chiropractic treatment, epidural steroid injections, Norco and Fiorcet.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cervical collar foam 2 piece w thor: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 179-181. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Treatment Index, 12 Edition (web), 2014, Neck & Upper Back, Cervical collar

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 175.

Decision rationale: According to guidelines other miscellaneous therapies have been evaluated and found to be ineffective or minimally effective. For example, cervical collars have not been shown to have any lasting benefit, except for comfort in the first few days of the clinical course in severe cases; in fact, weakness may result from prolonged use and will contribute to

debilitation. Immobilization using collars and prolonged periods of rest are generally less effective than having patients maintain their usual, "preinjury" activities. Based on this a cervical collar is not medically necessary.