

Case Number:	CM14-0149918		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	09/30/2007
Decision Date:	10/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/15/2014

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 Practice, 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:

59 yr. old mal claimant sustained a work injury on 9/30/07 involving the neck, back, wrists and knees. He had a diagnosis of Psoriasis and was provided with topical creams and shampoos in the past. A progress note on 1/29/14 from a dermatologist indicated the claimant has residual 7% body plaques with a Fitzpatrick 4 classification. 20 laser treatments to improve skin symptoms. Thirty treatments of Pharos laser treatment were recommended.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

20 Pharos laser treatment sessions: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 5. Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis with phototherapy and photochemotherapy. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2010 Jan, p. 114-135

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

Decision rationale: The MTUS and ACOEM guidelines do not comment on laser for psoriasis. The Pharos laser provides narrow band UV- B treatment. According to the national guidelines, patients that do not respond to topical treatment should be offered narrow band UV-B treatment.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology guidelines, up to 20 to 30 treatments are needed in those above 5 % body surface area in refractory cases. In this case, the claimant had years of topical treatments with residual psoriasis plaques. The request for 20 Pharos laser treatment sessions is medically necessary and appropriate.