

Case Number:	CM14-0157689		
Date Assigned:	09/30/2014	Date of Injury:	10/11/1996
Decision Date:	10/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2014

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 Occupational 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:

This patient is a 59 year old male who has had a cervical injury dated 10/11/96. Review of the operative notes reveals that he had cervical surgery on 4/9/14, which consisted of a multilevel decompression with instrumentation and graft material placed. He has had prior neck surgery with a C6-7 fusion. He has done very well post surgery and had completed 9 of 12 authorized sessions.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

12 Sessions of physical therapy: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 26.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines allow for up to 24 postoperative sessions for this patients type of surgery. The request for an additional 12 sessions is within Guideline recommendations.