

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0160636		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/14/1996
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/24/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/17/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/30/2014

### 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 Preventive 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 54-year-old male with an 11/14/96 date of injury. At the time (9/4/14) of the request for authorization for referral to anesthesiologist/pain management for greater occipital nerve block (trail block times 1), there is documentation of subjective (headaches from base of skull) and objective (positive tenderness right and left occipital nerve, the rest is illegible due to handwritten note) findings, current diagnoses (headaches, closed head trauma, cervical sprain/strain, and occipital neuralgia), and treatment to date (medication).

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Referral to anesthesiologist/pain management for greater occipital nerve block (trail block times 1):** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG-TWC, Pain procedure summary and Head procedure summary

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Head Chapter; Neck and Upper Back Chapter, Greater occipital nerve block

**Decision rationale:** MTUS does not address this issue. ODG states greater occipital nerve blocks are under study for use in treatment of primary headaches, occipital neuralgia, and cervicogenic headaches. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for referral to anesthesiologist/pain management for greater occipital nerve block (trail block times 1) is not medically necessary.