

Case Number:	CM14-0162555		
Date Assigned:	10/07/2014	Date of Injury:	01/18/2011
Decision Date:	10/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/02/2014

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 licensed in Chiropractic 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:

The injured worker is a 24 year old individual with an original date of injury of 1/18/11. The mechanism of this industrial injury was not specified. The patient has previously received physical therapy, massage therapy and acupuncture treatment. There is no previous chiropractic treatments reported. The disputed issue is a request for 8 additional chiropractic treatments for the lumbar spine. An earlier Medical Utilization Review made modified determination permitting 6 treatments. The rationale for this adverse determination was that the request does not meet medical guidelines of the CA MTUS.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Eight chiropractic treatments for the lumbar spine: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulations Page(s): 58-60.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS Guidelines does recommend Chiropractic treatment, in general, for chronic pain, with a trial of 6 visits over 2 weeks, and up to a total of 18 visits over 6-8 weeks, with evidence of objective, functional improvement. The injured worker has

undergone physical therapy, massage and acupuncture treatment. The Guidelines recommend a 6 visit chiropractic trial; therefore, the request is in excess of the Guidelines. The request for 8 additional chiropractic treatments for the lumbar spine is medically necessary.