

Case Number:	CM14-0181322		
Date Assigned:	11/06/2014	Date of Injury:	03/05/2009
Decision Date:	12/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/31/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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:

Medical records reflect the claimant is a 64 year old female who sustained a work injury on 3-5-09. Office visit on 10-8-14 notes the claimant has ongoing pain, which is helped with physical therapy. The claimant has lumbar tenderness and weakness with right ankle flexion. Medical Records reflect this claimant has had 36 physical therapy sessions since the injury.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

12 Additional sessions of physical therapy: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, 2014

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical medicine Page(s): 98-99. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low back chapter - Physical therapy

Decision rationale: Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines as well as ODG notes that one should allow for fading of treatment frequency (from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less), plus active self-directed home Physical Medicine. The claimant had been provided 36 physical therapy sessions since her injury. There is an absence in documentation noting that this claimant

cannot perform a home exercise program. There are no extenuating circumstances to support physical therapy at this juncture, so far removed post injury. Therefore, the medical necessity of this request is not established.