

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0181349		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/16/2001
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/09/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/09/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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 Orthopedic Surgery, has a subspecialty in Spine Fellowship 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 female with a 4/16/01 date of injury, and status post anterior cervical discectomy and fusion C6-7 9/23/14, and status post feeding tube placement 9/28/14. At the time (10/9/14) of request for authorization for Home health RN, there is documentation of subjective (throat difficulty, sore throat, cannot take solids or medications) and objective (small amount of purulent discharge coming out of the upper left-hand corner of the surgical wound) findings, imaging findings (reported ultrasound (9/27/14) revealed fistulous track to the esophagus), current diagnoses (esophageal cutaneous fistula, status post anterior cervical laminectomy), and treatment to date (medications). 10/6/14 physician's order form identifies a request for home health RN for G-tube management, education/instruction of TF, and incision check. There is no documentation that the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis and a time-limited treatment plan.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Home health RN:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 51.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home health services Page(s): 51.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment (where homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom is not the only care needed) and the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of home health services. In addition, MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of no more than 35 hours per week. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of esophageal cutaneous fistula, status post anterior cervical laminectomy. In addition, given documentation of a request for home health RN for G-tube management, education/instruction of TF, and incision check, there is documentation that the patient requires recommended medical treatment. However, there is no documentation that the patient is homebound on a part-time or intermittent basis. In addition, there is no documentation of a time-limited treatment plan. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Home health RN is not medically necessary.