

Case Number:	CM14-0183861		
Date Assigned:	11/10/2014	Date of Injury:	01/22/2014
Decision Date:	12/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/04/2014

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 General Preventive Medicine and is licensed to practice in Indiana. 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 employee is a 40 year old female with date of injury of 1/22/2014. A review of the medical records indicates that the patient is undergoing treatment for strain and sprain of the cervical spine. Subjective complaints include 5/10 pain in her neck. Objective findings include limited range of motion of the cervical spine with tenderness to palpation of paravertebrals. Treatment has included a physical therapy, chiropractic manipulations, acupuncture, TENS unit and H-wave. The utilization review dated 10/6/2014 non-certified home H-wave device purchase.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

H-Wave Device Purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines H-Wave Stimulation.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines H-Wave Stimulation Page(s): 117.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, "H-wave stimulation (HWT) is not recommended as an isolated intervention, but a one-month home-based trial of H-Wave stimulation may be considered as a noninvasive conservative option for diabetic neuropathic pain or chronic soft tissue inflammation if used as an adjunct to a program of

evidence-based functional restoration, and only following failure of initially recommended conservative care, including recommended physical therapy and medications, plus transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS). The one-month HWT trial may be appropriate to permit the physician and provider licensed to provide physical therapy to study the effects and benefits, and it should be documented (as an adjunct to ongoing treatment modalities within a functional restoration approach) as to how often the unit was used, as well as outcomes in terms of pain relief and function. Rental would be preferred over purchase during this trial. Trial periods of more than one month should be justified by documentation submitted for review."Medical records cite patient reported subjective improvement of pain rating with previous trial of H-wave unit. The treating physician does not actually confirm whether functional improve has improved, objective findings have improved, or if there was decrease in medication usage. Additionally, the medical records provided do not actually substantiate the diagnosis of neuropathic pain or chronic soft tissue inflammation, which is the MTUS indication for H-Wave treatment. Finally, there is no evidence that the H-Wave would be used as an adjunct to ongoing treatment modalities. As such, the request for 1 purchase of H-Wave Unit is not medically necessary.