MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0093531		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	11/08/2013
Decision Date:	10/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/19/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in Georgia. 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 claimant is a 46 year old presenting with chronic pain following a work related injury on 10/29/2013. On 05/01/2014, the claimant reported low back pain. The claimant's medications included Neurontin, Norco, Vistaril and Cymbalta. The claimant reported back pain rated at 9/10, constant, achy/numb and worse with activity. The physical exam showed decreased painful range of motion. The provider recommended an inferential unit and a conductive garment for the unit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Conductive Garment: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Inferential Therapy Page(s): 119.

Decision rationale: Conductive garment for an Inferential Unit is not medically necessary. Per MTUS, Inferential Current is "not recommended as an isolated intervention. There is no quality evidence of effectiveness except in conjunction with recommended treatments, including return to work, exercise and medications, and limited evidence of improvement on those recommended

treatments alone. The randomized trials that have evaluated the effectiveness of this treatment have included studies for back pain, jaw pain, soft tissue shoulder pain, cervical neck pain and post-operative knee pain....The findings from these trials were either negative or non-interpretable for recommendation due to poor study design and/or methodologic issues." Additionally, a jacket should not be certified until after the one-month trial and only with documentation that the individual cannot apply the stimulation pads alone or with the help of another available person" As it relates to this case inferential current was recommended as solo therapy for chronic pain. Per MTUS inferential current is not medically necessary as solo therapy. Given the nonmedical necessity for an inferential unit, the conductive garment is also not indicated. Finally, there is lack of documentation that the the claimant will have difficulty applying the stimulation pad; therefore, the requested product is not medically necessary.