

Case Number:	CM14-0192190		
Date Assigned:	11/25/2014	Date of Injury:	11/19/2003
Decision Date:	02/12/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/17/2014

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 Preventive Medicine, has a subspecialty in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in Iowa. 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 patient is a 56 year old employee with date of injury of 1/19/03. Medical records indicate the patient is undergoing treatment for decreased bilateral speech discrimination, shoulder injury and traumatic brain injury. Subjective complaints include memory loss (rest of notes are illegible). Objective findings include (notes are illegible). Treatment has consisted of PT, OT, Hydrocodone, Cyclobenzaprine and Naproxen. The utilization review determination was rendered on 10/20/14 recommending non-certification of a Connectline TV device. UR pg 6Audiology Report pg 38-39Physician note dated 9/2/14 on pg 30I do not understand this review...I cannot find anything that has to do with a TV in the medical record!

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Connectline TV device: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Library of Medicine, Other Literature Scand Audiol. 1983: 12(1):71-7 and Audiology. 1980:19(3): 189-201

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: <http://www.oticon.com/support/wireless-connectivity/connectline/tv-adapter.aspx> Medicare.gov, durable medical equipment

Decision rationale: Medicare details DME (durable medical equipment) as:-Durable and can withstand repeated use.-Used for a medical reason.-Not usually useful to someone who isn't sick or injured.-Appropriate to be used in your home.According to the oticon website above "The ConnectLine TV adaptor lets you enjoy watching TV at your preferred volume. You control the volume of the TV personally via Streamer Pro, meaning that the volume for the rest of the family can remain at a level which suits them".The treating physician has not detailed how the Connectline TV device is utilized as DME. He has not shown that the patient is unable to utilize a remote control to change the volume of his TV. As such, the request for a Connectline TV device is not medically necessary.