

Case Number:	CM14-0211400		
Date Assigned:	12/24/2014	Date of Injury:	03/03/2014
Decision Date:	02/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/16/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Chiropractor, Oriental Medicine

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 injured worker is a 50 year old male who reported shoulder pain from injury sustained on 03/03/14. He was shoveling dirt into a hole when he fell into the hole, landing on his right side. Patient is diagnosed with sprain of shoulder/arm, sprain of neck, rotator cuff sprain. Patient has been treated with shoulder surgery, medication, physical therapy, and chiropractic. Per medical notes dated 11/03/14, patient complains of ongoing pain and weakness in right shoulder/arm. He reports increased low back pain and neck pain as well as loss of sleep. Examination revealed decreased range of motion with pain and spasms. Per medical notes dated 11/12/14 patient has a post-op MRI which showed significant tears. Per medical notes dated 12/01/15, patient is showing signs of frozen shoulder with range of motion/pain. Weather changes causing increased pain in the low back symptoms with disc herniation. Provider requested additional 6 chiropractic sessions for shoulder pain which were non-certified by the utilization review. Therefore, the Utilization Review decision was appealed for an Independent Medical Review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

6 Chiropractic sessions to the shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Manual Therapy and Manipulation Page(s): 58-59.

Decision rationale: Patient has had prior chiropractic treatments; however, clinical notes fail to document any functional improvement with prior care. Provider requested additional 6 chiropractic sessions for shoulder pain which were non-certified by the utilization review. Patient is status post surgery; per medical noted dated 11/12/14 he has completed post-op MRI which revealed significant tears. Medical reports reveal little evidence of significant changes or improvement in findings, revealing a patient who has not achieved significant objective functional improvement to warrant additional treatment. Per guidelines, functional improvement means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam. Requested visits exceed the quantity supported by cited guidelines. Per review of evidence and guidelines, 6 Chiropractic visits are not medically necessary.