

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0019339		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/09/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/28/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/31/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/08/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/03/2015

### 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: New Jersey, Michigan, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 55 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/28/2012. The current diagnoses are arthralgia of the sacroiliac joint and sacroilitis. In the progress report dated 12/29/2014 there were no subjective complaints of sacroiliac joint pain. However, on examination there was severe point tenderness over the left sacroiliac sulcus and positive provocative pain at the left sacroiliac joint on compression testing. Treatment to date has included medications, physical therapy, and left sacroiliac joint injection (6/2/2014). Per notes, the injured worker had 70-80% pain relief following the left sacroiliac injection. The treating physician is requesting left sided sacroiliac joint injection, which is now under review. On 1/8/2015, Utilization Review had non-certified a request for left sided sacroiliac joint injection. The left sided sacroiliac joint injection was non-certified based on no documentation of duration and percentage of improvement from previous left sacroiliac joint injection. The Official Disability Guidelines were cited.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Outpatient Left Side Sacroiliac Joint Injection:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Hip

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Sacroiliac injections.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS guidelines are silent regarding sacroiliac injections. According to ODG guidelines, sacroiliac injections are medically necessary if the patient fulfills the following criteria: 1. the history and physical examination should suggest the diagnosis; 2. Other pain generators should be excluded; 3. Documentation of failure of 4-6 weeks aggressive therapies; 4. Blocks are performed under fluoroscopy; 5. Documentation of 80% pain relief for a diagnostic block; 6. If steroids are injected during the initial injection, the duration of relief should be at least 6 weeks; 7. In the therapeutic phase, the interval between 2 block is at least 2 months; 8. The block is not performed at the same day as an epidural injection; 9. The therapeutic procedure should be repeated as needed with no more than 4 procedures per year. It is not clear from the patient file, that the patient fulfills the criteria of sacroiliac damage, that the sacroiliac joint is the pain generator and other pain generator have been excluded. There is no documentation that the patient failed aggressive conservative therapies for at least 4 to 6 weeks. Therefore, the requested for Left Side Sacroiliac Joint Injection is not medically necessary.