

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0115267		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/23/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	12/02/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/22/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/28/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/15/2015

### 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, Alabama, 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 57 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/02/2010. The medical records submitted for this review did not include the details regarding the initial injury. Diagnoses include headaches, chronic pain syndrome, and cervical radiculopathy. Treatments to date include medication management, compound topical medication, physical therapy and a TENS unit. Currently, she complained of unchanged pain in the neck, upper back, left shoulder, right knee and right wrist/hand. On 4/29/15, the physical examination documented intact sensation. The plan of care included a percutaneous electrical nerve stimulator (neurostimulator) (PENS); four separate treatments over the course of thirty days.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Percutaneous electrical nerve stimulator (neurostimulator); four separate treatments over the course of thirty days:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Percutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (PENS).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation Page(s): 97.

**Decision rationale:** According to MUTUS guidelines, PENS is not recommended as primary treatment modality, but a one month based trial may be considered, if used as an adjunct to a functional restoration program. There is no evidence that a functional restoration program is planned for this patient. Furthermore, there is no efficacy of previous use of TENS. There is no recent documentation of recent flare of the patient's pain. The provider should document how PENS will improve the functional status and the patient's pain condition. Therefore, the prescription of Percutaneous electrical nerve stimulator (neurostimulator); four separate treatments over the course of thirty days is not medically necessary.