

Case Number:	CM15-0120561		
Date Assigned:	07/01/2015	Date of Injury:	11/06/2002
Decision Date:	08/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/21/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/22/2015

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: Texas, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 is a 64-year-old female patient who sustained an industrial injury on 11/6/2002. The diagnoses include lumbar strain with radiation, cervical spine disc disease and right shoulder impingement. Per the note dated 6/8/2015, she had complaints of pain and impaired activity of daily living. Per the doctor's note dated 4/23/2015, she had complaints of right shoulder pain, bilateral wrist pain, neck pain, low back pain and difficulty sleeping. The physical examination revealed right shoulder- tenderness and decreased range of motion; bilateral wrist- tenderness, decreased range of motion on the right and positive Tinel's, Phalen's and Finkelstein test bilaterally; cervical spine- tenderness, spasm and decreased range of motion; lumbar spine- tenderness and decreased range of motion. The medications list includes tramadol ER and topical analgesic cream. Treatment has included medication, TENS unit, chiropractic therapy, acupuncture, physical therapy, and a home exercise program, which is reported to have no lasting impact on symptom reduction. She had a one-month trial of H-wave home treatment which she stated reduced her pain and helped increase her strength and endurance. Work status at present is not provided in documentation, but the injured worker is considered permanent and stationary. The treating physician's plan of care includes purchase of a home H-wave device.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Home H-Wave device: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines H-Wave Stimulation (HWT).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page 117-118H-wave stimulation (HWT).

Decision rationale: Per the CA MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines-H-wave stimulation (HWT) is "Not recommended as an isolated intervention, but a one-month home-based trial of H Wave stimulation may be considered as a non-invasive conservative option for diabetic neuropathic pain, or chronic soft tissue inflammation if used as an adjunct to a program of evidence-based functional restoration, and only following failure of initially recommended conservative care, including recommended physical therapy (i.e., exercise) and medications, plus transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS)." Evidence of diabetic neuropathy is not specified in the records provided. Patient has used a H-wave device for 1 month. Response in terms of decreased need for medications and increased objective functional improvement is not specified in the records provided. Previous conservative therapy notes are not specified in the records provided. The request for a purchase of a home H-wave device is not medically necessary or fully established for this patient at this juncture.