

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0124928		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/09/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/30/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/05/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/22/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/29/2015

### 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: North Carolina

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:

The injured worker is a 60 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 10/30/2007. She reported pain in her neck, back, left shoulder and left arm. Diagnoses have included cervical musculoligamentous sprain/strain with radiculitis, thoracic musculoligamentous sprain/strain, lumbosacral musculoligamentous sprain/strain with radiculitis, left shoulder sprain/strain, left shoulder tendinitis, left elbow sprain/strain and left elbow lateral epicondylitis. Treatment to date has included chiropractic treatment. According to the Doctor's First Report of Occupational Injury or Illness dated 6/10/2015, the injured worker complained of neck pain, back pain, left shoulder pain and left arm pain. Exam of the cervical spine revealed tenderness to palpation and spasm of the bilateral paraspinal muscles, decreased range of motion and positive compression test. Exam of the thoracic spine revealed tenderness to palpation, trigger points and spasms. Exam of the lumbar spine revealed tenderness to palpation, spasms and decreased range of motion. Exam of the left shoulder revealed tenderness to palpation and decreased range of motion. There was decreased sensation of the bilateral upper extremities in the median nerve distribution. There was decreased motor strength in the right lower extremity and decreased sensation in the right anterolateral thigh/anterior knee/medial leg and foot.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**EMG/NCV bilateral lower extremities:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 303.

**Decision rationale:** The ACOEM chapters on low back complaints and the need for lower extremity EMG/NCV states: Unequivocal objective findings that identify specific nerve compromise on the neurologic examination are sufficient evidence to warrant imaging in patients who do not respond to treatment and who would consider surgery an option. When the neurologic examination is less clear, however, further physiologic evidence of nerve dysfunction should be obtained before ordering an imaging study. Indiscriminant imaging will result in false-positive findings, such as disk bulges, that are not the source of painful symptoms and do not warrant surgery. If physiologic evidence indicates tissue insult or nerve impairment, the practitioner can discuss with a consultant the selection of an imaging test to define a potential cause (magnetic resonance imaging [MRI] for neural or other soft tissue, computer tomography [CT] for bony structures). Electromyography (EMG), including H-reflex tests, may be useful to identify subtle, focal neurologic dysfunction in patients with low back symptoms lasting more than three or four weeks. There are unequivocal objective findings of nerve compromise on the neurologic exam provided for review. However, there is not mention of surgical consideration. There are no unclear neurologic findings on exam. For these reasons, criteria for lower extremity EMG/NCV have not been met as set forth in the ACOEM. Therefore, the request is not certified.