

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0125974		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/10/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/27/1998
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/06/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/09/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/01/2015

### 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, Florida, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 58 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 10/27/1998. The mechanism of injury was someone pulled him forward and snapped his neck back and forth. The injured worker was diagnosed as having brachial neuritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included therapy and medication management. In a progress note dated 3/10/2015, the injured worker complains of neck pain and numbness. Physical examination showed no acute or chronic abnormalities. The treating physician is requesting follow-up office visit/consultation to neurologist for two visits.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Follow-up office visit/consultation to neurologist for two visits:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 5 Cornerstones of Disability Prevention and Management.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, page 127.

**Decision rationale:** This claimant was injured in 1998 when he was pulled forward and snapped his neck back and forth. He had brachial neuritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included therapy and medication management. As of 3/10/2015, the injured worker complains of neck pain and numbness. Physical examination showed no acute or chronic abnormalities. The request however is for a specialist assessment. ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, Page 127, state that the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. A referral may be for consultation to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness for return to work. A consultant is usually asked to act in an advisory capacity, but may sometimes take full responsibility for investigation and/or treatment of an examinee or patient. There are chronic subjective neck numbness, but no objective neurologic findings. This request for the consult fails to specify the concerns to be addressed in the independent or expert assessment, including the relevant medical and non-medical issues, diagnosis, causal relationship, prognosis, temporary or permanent impairment, work capability, clinical management, and treatment options. The request is not medically necessary.