

Case Number:	CM15-0127881		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2015	Date of Injury:	09/04/1999
Decision Date:	08/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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: California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Emergency 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 53-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/4/99. The injured worker has complaints of finding it difficult to perform activities of daily living; she has trouble eating due to the pain and talking due to the pain. The documentation noted that the injured worker reports dark tarry stools. The injured worker reports having tremors in her hands and her lower extremities. The lumbar spine noted to have spasm, guarding, and the muscle tone of the trapezius is increased and there is palpable tenderness. The documentation noted that there is weakness of the muscles of both rotator cuffs noted on strength testing. The diagnoses have included cervical disc displacement without myelopathy; lumbar disc displacement without myelopathy; pain in joint shoulder and therapeutic drug monitor. Treatment to date has included acupuncture for smoking cessation and smoking cessation program; physical therapy; left shoulder surgery in 2006; cervical discectomy and fusion in November 2002; cervical fusion in in November 2006 and 2008; injections and medications. The documentation noted that the injured worker did seek care with a dentist on an emergent basis, who gave her antibiotics and referred her to an oral surgeon. The request was for nurse case manager.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Nurse case manager: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Chronic Pain Disorder Medical Treatment Guidelines, Colorado Division of Worker's Compensation, Page 89.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain, page 1, Part 1: Introduction Page(s): 1.

Decision rationale: The requested Nurse case manager is not medically necessary. California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), 2009, Chronic pain, page 1, Part 1: Introduction, states, "If the complaint persists, the physician needs to reconsider the diagnosis and decide whether a specialist evaluation is necessary." The injured worker has complaints of finding it difficult to perform activities of daily living; she has trouble eating due to the pain and talking due to the pain. The documentation noted that the injured worker reports dark tarry stools. The injured worker reports having tremors in her hands and her lower extremities. The lumbar spine noted to have spasm, guarding, and the muscle tone of the trapezius is increased and there is palpable tenderness. The documentation noted that there is weakness of the muscles of both rotator cuffs noted on strength testing. The treating physician has not sufficiently documented the medical necessity for this case manager nor the duration of necessity. The criteria noted above not having been met, Nurse case manager is not medically necessary.