

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0067569		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/15/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/29/1990
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/14/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/26/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/09/2015

### 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: Iowa, Illinois, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive 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 61 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 05/29/1990. The initial diagnoses or complaints at time of injury were not clearly noted. On provider visit dated 02/02/2015 the injured worker reported for follow up for hospital stay complaining of urinary tract infection and rhabdomyelosis. On examination the injured worker was noted to have diminished to absent sensation in feet bilaterally, with extension onto the lower legs, and unable to distinguish monofilament touch on feet. The diagnoses have included hypochondriasis, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus and low back pain. Treatment to date has included medication, diagnostic studies and laboratory studies. The provider requested scooter repair.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Scooter Repair:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Power mobility devices (PMDs).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Power Mobility Devices Page(s): 99. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Powered Mobility Devices.

**Decision rationale:** The chronic pain guidelines state the following regarding motorized wheel chairs: "Not recommended if the functional mobility deficit can be sufficiently resolved by the prescription of a cane or walker, or the patient has sufficient upper extremity function to propel a manual wheelchair, or there is a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with a manual wheelchair. Early exercise, mobilization and independence should be encouraged at all steps of the injury recovery process, and if there is any mobility with canes or other assistive devices, a motorized scooter is not essential to care." Additionally, ODG comments on motorized wheelchairs and says the following: "Not recommended if the functional mobility deficit can be sufficiently resolved by the prescription of a cane or walker, or the patient has sufficient upper extremity function to propel a manual wheelchair, or there is a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with a manual wheelchair. (CMS, 2006) Early exercise, mobilization and independence should be encouraged at all steps of the injury recovery process, and if there is any mobility with canes or other assistive devices, a motorized scooter is not essential to care." There is no medical documentation that the patient does not have sufficient upper extremity strength to propel a manual wheelchair or that there is no caregiver available. Therefore, the request for a Scooter Repair is not medically necessary.