

Case Number:	CM15-0071961		
Date Assigned:	04/22/2015	Date of Injury:	12/17/2009
Decision Date:	06/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/30/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/15/2015

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 41-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/17/09. He reported pain in the lower back, knees and pelvis related to a 14-foot fall. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbar facet syndrome, lumbar radiculopathy and lumbar disc disorder. Treatment to date has included a lumbar MRI, lumbar epidural injections, an EMG study and pain medications. As of the PR2 dated 3/18/15, the injured worker reports 6/10 pain with medications and 10/10 pain without medications. The treating physician noted decreased range of motion and a positive FABER test in the lumbar spine. The treating physician requested Baja lumbar spine brace with fitting for purchase.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Baja lumbar spinal brace with fitting purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 301.

Decision rationale: The ACOEM chapter on low back complaints and treatment recommendations states: Lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief. This patient has chronic ongoing low back complaints and is status post-lumbar laminectomy. Per the ACOEM, lumbar supports have no lasting benefit outside of the acute phase of injury. This patient is well past the acute phase of injury and there is no documentation of acute flare up of chronic low back pain. Therefore, criteria for use of lumbar support per the ACOEM have not been met and the request is not medically necessary.