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| Case Number: | CM15-0078010 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 04/29/2015 | Date of Injury: | 03/10/2014 |
| Decision Date: | 05/26/2015 | UR Denial Date: | 04/13/2015 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 04/23/2015 |

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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 46 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on March 10, 2014. He has reported back pain, hip pain, and leg pain. Diagnoses have included lumbar spine strain/sprain, lumbar spine muscle spasm, rule out lumbar spine disc protrusion, and lumbar spine radiculitis versus radiculopathy. Treatment to date has included medications, acupuncture, chiropractic, epidural steroid injection and imaging studies. A progress note dated February 10, 2015 indicates a chief complaint of lower back pain radiating to the left leg. The treating physician documented a plan of care that included re-evaluation with a chiropractor.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Re-Evaluation with Chiropractor: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chiropractic Care, Manual Therapy & Manipulation, Treatment, pages 58-60.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines supports chiropractic manipulation for musculoskeletal injury. It is unclear how many sessions have been completed to date. Submitted reports have not demonstrated clear specific functional benefit or change in chronic symptoms and clinical findings for this chronic injury. There are unchanged clinical findings and functional improvement in terms of decreased pharmacological dosing with pain relief, decreased medical utilization, increased ADLs or improved work/functional status from treatment already rendered by previous chiropractic care. Clinical exam remains unchanged without acute flare-up or new red-flag findings. It appears the patient has received an extensive conservative treatment trial; however, remains unchanged without functional restoration approach. As the chiropractic therapy is not medically necessary; thereby, the Re-Evaluation with Chiropractor is not medically necessary.