

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review
P.O. Box 138009
Sacramento, CA 95813-8009
(855) 865-8873 Fax: (916) 605-4270



Independent Medical Review Final Determination Letter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dated: 12/31/2013

Employee: [REDACTED]
Claim Number: [REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision: 7/3/2013
Date of Injury: 12/10/2002
IMR Application Received: 7/25/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number: CM13-0003338

DEAR [REDACTED]

MAXIMUS Federal Services has completed the Independent Medical Review (“IMR”) of the above workers’ compensation case. This letter provides you with the IMR Final Determination and explains how the determination was made.

Final Determination: UPHOLD. This means we decided that none of the disputed items/services are medically necessary and appropriate. A detailed explanation of the decision for each of the disputed items/services is provided later in this letter.

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the Final Determination of the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers’ Compensation. This determination is binding on all parties.

In certain limited circumstances, you can appeal the Final Determination. Appeals must be filed with the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board within 30 days from the date of this letter. For more information on appealing the final determination, please see California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations, [REDACTED]

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and is licensed to practice in California. 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 physician 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/services.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The physician reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

The underlying date of injury in this case is 12/10/2002. This patient is a 63-year-old man with the treating diagnosis of low back pain. In early 2013, the patient reported ongoing low back pain with minimal radiation. The patient reported that he required a lumbosacral orthosis to help with function as in the past. No specific neurologic deficits were noted. An initial physician review noted that the treatment guidelines did not support an indication for this treatment.

IMR DECISION(S) AND RATIONALE(S)

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

1. LS Orthotic LO630, medium profile is not medically necessary and appropriate.

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Official Disability Guidelines, which is not part of the MTUS.

The Physician Reviewer based his/her decision on the Low Back Complaints (ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004), Chapter 12) pg. 301, which is part of the MTUS.

The Physician Reviewer's decision rationale:

The MTUS/ACOEM Guidelines indicate, "Lumbar supports have not been shown to have any lasting benefit beyond the acute phase of symptom relief." The medical records provided for review do not indicate an alternative rationale to support a probable benefit from this treatment. The reports of benefit in the medical records are subjective and are not consistent with the guidelines. **The request for LS Orthotic LO630, medium profile is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

/sh

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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