

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

P.O. Box 138009

Sacramento, CA 95813-8009

(855) 865-8873 Fax: (916) 605-4270



Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 12/12/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	8/5/2013
Date of Injury:	3/1/2005
IMR Application Received:	9/3/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0019787

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **one (1) urine drug screen between 7/2/2013 and 9/30/2013 is medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 9/3/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/5/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 10/11/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **one (1) urine drug screen between 7/2/2013 and 9/30/2013 is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, has a subspecialty in Cardiovascular Disease 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 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The patient is a 59-year-old female who reported injury on 03/01/2005. The patient has been seen for complaints of neck and back pain. The patient has been previously treated with chiropractic care, medication management, diagnostic workup, acupuncture, and injections. The patient's medication regimen as of 07/02/2013 consisted of Norco, Terocin cream, Prilosec, Elavil, and Restoril. The patient's last urine drug screen was on 12/14/2012 that was reported as consistent. The patient has diagnoses of cervical radiculitis, lumbar facet arthropathy, myofascial pain syndrome, and chronic pain syndrome. Recommendation is for a urine drug screen.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

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

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)
- Medical Records from:
 - Claims Administrator
 - Employee/Employee Representative
 - Provider

1) Regarding the request for one (1) urine drug screen between 7/2/2013 and 9/30/2013:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, which is part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, Drug testing, page 43, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The Chronic Pain Guidelines recommend urine drug screens to assess for the use or presence of illegal drugs, for ongoing management of opioids, and before initiating a therapeutic trial of opioids. The medical records provided for review indicate that the employee had medication regimen with an opioid (Norco). The employee's most recent urine drug screen was done in 12/2012. Therefore, upon the date of request, it had been approximately 7 to 8 months since the last urine drug screen. This frequency of testing would be appropriate given the employee's medication regimen and history. **The request for one (1) urine drug screen between 7/2/2013 and 9/30/2013 is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/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.