

**MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.**

Independent Medical Review

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**Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination**

Dated: 10/1/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/3/2013
Date of Injury:	3/18/1999
IMR Application Received:	7/18/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0002029

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for Neurontin 1200mg 180 tabs 4 refills **is medically necessary and appropriate.**

## INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 7/18/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/3/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 7/23/2013. 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 Neurontin 1200mg 180 tabs 4 refills **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 Occupational Medicine 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.

### **Case Summary:**

Disclaimer: The following case summary was taken directly from the utilization review denial/modification dated July 3, 2013:

“Nurse Clinical summary: DOI 3/18/99, Patient was previously authorized for 1 refill of Neurontin. Patient is seen every 6 month prescription without medication CRPS symptoms flare up. Neuropathic pain: Patient complains of pain rated 4/10.”

### **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 for Independent Medical (received 7/18/2013)
- Utilization Review by [REDACTED] (date July 3, 2013)
- Medical Records from [REDACTED] (8/6/2013 & 8/9/2013)
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

### **1) Regarding the request for Neurontin 1200mg 180 tabs 4 refills:**

#### Medical Treatment Guideline(s) Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision:

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, (2009), Antiepilepsy drugs, (page number not cited), part of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS). The provider did not dispute the guidelines used by the Claims Administrator. The Expert Reviewer found the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, (2009), Antiepilepsy

drugs, Gabapentin, page 18-19, part of the MTUS, applicable and relevant to the issue at dispute.

Rationale for the Decision:

The employee was injured in a work-related injury on 3/18/99. The submitted and reviewed medical records indicate diagnoses include: complex regional pain syndrome, type 1, of the right upper extremity and right lower extremity and right hemibody. Prior treatment has included medications. The records indicate the employee experiences pain of 4/10 with medication, which has been stable and not increased on the current prescribed dose. A request has been submitted for Neurontin 1200mg 180 tabs 4 refills.

MTUS Chronic Pain guidelines recommend gabapentin (Neurontin) for the treatment of complex regional pain syndrome on a trial basis at the highest tolerated dose. The submitted medical records suggest that the dosing of Neurontin has been beneficial. Given that the medication has been effective for the employee for a significant amount of time, it is medically appropriate to continue the current dosage of medication. The request for Neurontin 1200mg 180 tabs 4 refills **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;

Richard C. Weiss, MD, MPH, MMM, PMP  
Medical Director

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

/srb

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.