

Case Number:	CM13-0010227		
Date Assigned:	11/08/2013	Date of Injury:	01/27/2010
Decision Date:	01/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/11/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/12/2013

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 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 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. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for temporomandibular joint (TMJ) reportedly associated with an industrial injury of January 27, 2010. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with the following: Analgesic medications; a custom occlusal night guard; unspecified amounts of physical therapy; and work restrictions. In a utilization review report of July 11, 2013, the claims administrator endorsed continuing physical therapy and denied a request for Botox treatments for TMJ. The applicant's attorney later appealed, on August 6, 2013. In a June 26, 2013 letter, the attending provider states that Botox injections to the masseter and temporalis muscles would diminish muscle spasm, particularly when used in conjunction with physical therapy. Botox injections were also endorsed on February 11, 2013.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Botox injections for masticator muscles: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The TMJ News Bites, July 2011 Volume 3, Issue 4 and Realself.com :Are Botox Injections effective to treat TMJ symptoms?".

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 26. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of

Disorders Involving the Temporomandibular Joint and Related Musculoskeletal Structures, and the FDI World Dental Federation, © 2012, Efficacy of botulinum toxins on bruxism: an evidence-based review.

Decision rationale: The MTUS does not address the topic of Botox injections for dental issues, although it is incidentally noted that page 26 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines does discuss usage of Botox injections for various issues such as migraine headaches, tension type headaches, neck pain, cervical dystonia, back pain, etc. As noted by the World Dental Federation in 2012, botulinum toxin injections are effective on bruxism and are safe to use. In comparison with an oral splint, Botox injections are equally effective on bruxism. The position of the World Dental Federation is echoed by the Guidelines of the American Society of Temporomandibular Joint Surgeons on the management of disorders involving the TMJ joints, which also state that Botox injections appear to represent an effective method for treating severe bruxism when traditional methods fail. In this case, it does appear that the applicant has tried and failed more conventional treatment, including physical therapy, medications, splinting, etc. Trial of Botox injections is therefore indicated. Therefore, the original utilization review decision is overturned. The request is certified.