

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0015568		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/10/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/26/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/11/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/12/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/23/2013

### 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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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/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 patient is a 53-year-old male who has a work injury dated 6/26/13. The diagnosis is right Achilles tendon tear. There is a request for Lyrica. An 8/5/13 medical office visit states that the patient continues with right Achilles tendon pain right where the swelling is. This hurts when he has to walk a lot or use ladders. A physical exam reveals no swelling of the right ankle with normal sensation and no ecchymosis. The Foot Exam reveals upon examination of the right foot there is no tenderness to palpation, no pain, no swelling, edema erythema of surrounding tissue, normal strength and tone, normal foot and ankle movements and range of motion, no instability, no known fractures or deformities, normal sensation and coordination and no crepitus. The Toes examination of the affected toe[s] reveals - no tenderness to palpation, no pain, no swelling, edema or erythema of surrounding tissue, normal strength and tone, normal foot and ankle movements and range of motion, no instability, no known fractures or deformities, normal sensation and coordination and no crepitus. Upon injury appearance: deformity is visible (swelling to distal aspect of Achilles tendon and is very tender to palpation.) Injury Swelling reveals there is mild swelling of the injury site. The document however, has inconsistencies such as injury tenderness "There is no injury site tenderness and there is exquisite tenderness of the injury site" The diagnoses are Achilles tendon injury. Lyrica was recommended to be started. An 8/12/13 office visit states that MRI of Achilles tendon done and shows large tear of Achilles tendon.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**PRESCRIPTION OF LYRICA:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines ANTI-EPILEPSY DRUGS (AEDs).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines ANTI-EPILEPSY DRUGS Page(s): s 19-20.

**Decision rationale:** The request for a prescription of Lyrica is not medically necessary per MTUS guidelines. Per the MTUS Lyrica is an antiepileptic drugs. Antiepileptic drugs can be used for neuropathic pain. Lyrica has been documented to be effective in treatment of diabetic neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia. The documentation submitted reveals patient has an Achilles tendon tear. The documentation does not support a history or physical consistent with neuropathic pain. The request for Lyrica is not medically necessary.