

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0019923		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/08/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/24/2005
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/26/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/26/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/04/2013

### 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 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 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:

This is a 42-year-old female with a 9/24/05 date of injury. The patient underwent a first rib resection in 2008. The patient was seen on 7/29/13 for the follow up visit. The patient had a scalene block recently and it reduced her pain by 70 % for the first 2 days following the injection. Exam findings revealed decreased range of motion in the right shoulder with pain, tenderness to palpation at the right anterior shoulder and diffuse weakness in the right arm. The remaining physical examination was normal. The diagnosis is thoracic outlet syndrome and brachial plexus lesions. Treatment to date: scale block, work restrictions and medications. An adverse determination was received on 8/26/13 for a lack of research of efficacy and potential severe adverse effects.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **200 units of Botox Injectable Solution between 7/29/2013 and 9/22/2013: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Washington State Department of Labor Industries . Work related neurogenic thoracic outlet syndrome: diagnosis and treatment. Olympia (WA): Washington State Department of Labor and Industries; 2010, Oct 1. 14, page 36, references.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines , Botox, Page(s): 25-26.

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS states that Botox is not generally recommended for chronic pain disorders, such as tension-type headache; migraine headache; fibromyositis; chronic neck pain; myofascial pain syndrome; & trigger point injections. The evidence is mixed for migraine headaches. This RCT found that both botulinum toxin type A (BoNTA) and divalproex sodium (DVPX) significantly reduced disability associated with migraine, and BoNTA had a favorable tolerability profile compared with DVPX. Botulinum neurotoxin is probably ineffective in episodic migraine and chronic tension-type headache (Level B). In addition, the Guidelines state that such treatment should be reserved only for patients with pain refractory to other treatments, there are also potentially significant side effects including death. The records indicated that the patient underwent a scalene block injection with a 2 days relief. However there is a lack of documentation indicating what other conservative treatments were attempted to relieve the patient's pain. In addition, the Guidelines state that Botox injections should be reserved only for patients with pain refractory to other treatments and there are also potentially significant side effects including death. Therefore, the request for 200 units of Botox Injectable Solution between 7/29/2013 and 9/22/2013 is not medically necessary.