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| Case Number: | CM13-0027204 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 11/22/2013 | Date of Injury: | 08/01/2006 |
| Decision Date: | 01/24/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 09/23/2013 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 09/30/2013 |

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 Addiction and Toxicology has a subspecialty in Pediatrics and is licensed to practice in New York and Massachusetts. 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:

This is a 43 yr old patient with date of injury on 8/1/2006. Patient has ever since diagnosed with B/l Upper arm pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, complex regional pain syndrome and back pain. Multiple diagnostic procedures and therapeutic procedures have been done so far and are as following; Ganglion block, partial tenosynovectomy, release left thumb A annular band. The medications in dispute include Xanax, Vicodin and Levsin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Xanax 0.5 mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 24-25. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Ibanez GE, Levi-Minzi MA, Rigg KK, Mooss AD. Diversion of Benzodiazepines through healthcare sources. J Psychoactive Drugs. 2013 Jan-Mar; 45 (1): 48-56.

Decision rationale: Xanax is an anxiolytic that belongs to benzodiazepine class and there is no analgesic effect, Also in a patient with "mood swings" a CNS depressant such as Xanax may have substantial negative effect on her mood. Also the recent Urine drug screen was negative for

Xanax and Vicodin. As per MTUS Guidelines 2009 long term use of benzodiazepines may actually increase anxiety. The request is denied.

Vicodin 5/500 mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 82-87. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Von Korff MR Long-term use of Opioids for complex chronic pain. Best Pract Res Clin Rheumatol. 2013 Oct; 27 (5): 663-72. Doi: 10.1016/j.berh.2013.09.11. Epub 2013 Oct 5.

Decision rationale: Vicodin is an opioid and this could be considered as a first line of drug in prompt relief while titrating a first line drug, treatment of episodic exacerbations and treatment of neuropathic cancer pain. The patient's pain is more of a chronic pain and is at the plateau phase. Also in several articles, it has been shown that opioids have no sustained. Positive effect on several goals in pain control. Also there is no documentation of positive response from previous opioid therapy. The recent Urine drug screen was negative for opioids in spite of opioids ebbing prescribed and this represents non compliance. The request is denied.

Levsin ODT 0.125 SL #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Hyoscamine or Levsin was recommended as a treatment for the constipation induced by opioids. Opioids are noncertified; hence Levsin is also not necessary.