

Case Number:	CM13-0031550		
Date Assigned:	03/17/2014	Date of Injury:	08/29/2011
Decision Date:	04/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/25/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/03/2013

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 47-year-old male with an 8/29/11 date of injury. At the time (9/24/13) of request for authorization for 90 tablets of Oxycontin 40mg between 9/19/2013 and 11/3/2013, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain rated 4/10 with medications and 8/10 without medications) and objective (tenderness of paralumbar muscles and decreased range of motion) findings, urinary drug screen (4/2013) revealed findings consistent with use of Oxycontin and Oxycodone, current diagnoses (lumbago, sciatica, radiculitis, and lumbar facet arthropathy), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Oxycontin and Oxycodone)). There is no documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects; functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Oxycontin use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

OXYCONTIN 40MG #90: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Section Page(s): 74-80.

Decision rationale: The Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines necessitate documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of opioids. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbago, sciatica, radiculitis, and lumbar facet arthropathy. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with Oxycontin. However, there is no documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. In addition, despite documentation of subjective findings (low back pain rated 4/10 with medications and 8/10 without medications), there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Oxycontin use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Oxycontin 40mg #90 is not medically necessary.