

Case Number:	CM13-0060330		
Date Assigned:	05/07/2014	Date of Injury:	06/06/2003
Decision Date:	06/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/03/2013

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:

The patient is taking Methadone along with other medications for treatment of chronic pain. A request was made for an EKG (electrocardiogram) to monitor for QT prolongation in relationship to the long term Methadone medication.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

EKG(ELECTROCARDIOGRAM) TO MONITOR QTC PROLONGATION DUE TO CHRONIC METHADONE THERAPY: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Methadone Section Page(s): 61,62.

Decision rationale: The prior Utilization Review (UR) denied the EKG based on the conclusion that the Methadone was not medically necessary and therefore the EKG was not necessary. However, the use of Methadone was not an issue to be reviewed in that particular UR request (November 18, 2013). The issue to be addressed in UR was only the medical necessity of the EKG. If a patient is on Methadone, periodic EKG's is the standard of care and is supported by Guidelines. The EKG is medically necessary while Methadone is being utilized. The request for

an EKG to monitor QTC prolongation due to chronic methadone therapy is medically necessary and appropriate.