

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0065648		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/03/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/04/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/20/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/09/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/13/2013

### 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 31-year-old male with a 2/4/11 date of injury. At the time (12/10/13) of the Decision for 60 Flexeril 5MG, there is documentation of subjective (radiating neck pain into the left upper extremity and radiating low back pain into the lower extremities; pain is reported as 6/10 with medications and 8/10 without) and objective (moderate distress, slow gait, lumbar tenderness at L4-S1, limited lumbar spine range of motion secondary to pain, decreased sensitivity to touch over the L5-S1 dermatomal distribution, and positive seated straight leg raise) findings, current diagnoses (cervical radiculitis, cervical sprain/strain, lumbar radiculopathy, lumbar sprain/strain, and chronic pain), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Flexeril)). There is no documentation of acute muscle spasm; the intention to treat over a short course (less than two weeks); and 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 Flexeril use to date.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**60 FLEXERIL 5MG:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines MAY 2009, SECTION ON CYCLOBENZAPRINE(FLEXERIL)..

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines SECTION ON CYCLOBENZAPRINE(FLEXERIL) Page(s): 41-12. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG) PAIN, MUSCLE RELAXANTS (FOR PAIN)

**Decision rationale:** MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that Flexeril is recommended for a short course of therapy. 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. ODG identifies that muscle relaxants are recommended as a second line option for short-term (less than two weeks) treatment of acute low back pain and for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic low back pain. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical radiculitis, cervical sprain/strain, lumbar radiculopathy, lumbar sprain/strain, and chronic pain. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with Flexeril. However, there is no documentation of acute muscle spasm. In addition, given documentation of records reflecting ongoing treatment with Flexeril, there is no documentation of the intention to treat over a short course (less than two weeks). Furthermore, despite documentation of pain at 6/10 with medications and 8/10 without, there is no (clear) 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 Flexeril use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for 60 Flexeril 5MG is not medically necessary.