

Case Number:	CM13-0069255		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	06/08/2012
Decision Date:	07/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/20/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty Pain Management 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 patient with a date of injury of 6/8/12. A utilization review determination dated 12/4/13 recommends non-certification of a urine drug screen and modification of Gaia herbs laxative formula from an unspecified quantity to a 1-month supply. It notes that prior UDS testing was done in 3/13, 7/13, and 9/13. 11/26/13 medical report identifies right shoulder and neck pain. "The patient's pain level today is 8-9/10, with medications it is 6/10 and without medications it is 10/10. His pain has average 7/10 over the preceding week (he has not had any pain medications). On exam, no abnormal findings are noted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

I Urine Drug Screen: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines May 2009, (Opioids, steps to avoid misuse/addiction) Page(s): 76-79. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Chronic Pain Chapter Urine Drug Testing.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for a urine drug screen, CA MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state the drug testing is recommended as an option. Guidelines go

on to recommend monitoring for the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or nonadherent) drug related behaviors. ODG recommends urine drug testing on a yearly basis for low risk patients, 2-3 times a year for moderate risk patients, and possibly once per month for high risk patients. Within the documentation available for review, it appears that prior testing was performed approximately 2 months prior to the requested UDS and there is no documentation of current risk stratification to identify the medical necessity of drug screening at the proposed frequency. There is no statement indicating why this patient would be considered to be high risk for opiate misuse, abuse, or diversion. As such, the currently requested urine drug screen is not medically necessary.

Gaia Herbs Laxative Formula: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines) Opioids, Criteria for use, Page 77 Page(s): 77.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Gaia herbs laxative formula, California MTUS does support the use of laxatives to prevent constipation in patients undergoing chronic opioid therapy. However, a search of CA MTUS, ACOEM, ODG, the National Library of Medicine, the National Guideline Clearinghouse, and other online resources failed to reveal support/efficacy for Gaia herbs laxative formula in the management of constipation or any of the patient's cited conditions. In light of the above issues, the currently requested Gaia herbs laxative formula is not medically necessary.