

Case Number:	CM13-0069299		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	05/09/2001
Decision Date:	04/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/08/2013
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 Internal 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 a 40 year old male with date of injury on 05/09/2001. The records do not reflect the mechanism of injury. The patient carries a diagnosis of lumbar radiculopathy, depression with anxiety, left foot and knee pain, and dental damage. His current regimen includes Naproxen, Lyrica, and Norco. There is no mention of any current psychotropic medications at this time. Pain levels improve to 8-9/10 from 10/10 on medication. The current request is for Lyrica 75mg #60 tablets.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ONE PRESCRIPTION FOR LYRICA 75MG #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): 16-22.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines state anticonvulsant drugs (Lyrica) can be used in painful neuropathy. However, Lyrica is also approved for fibromyalgia. The patient, according to the psychiatric evaluation referred to in some of the orthopedic notes, also carries this diagnosis. The Lyrica, however, is being prescribed for lumbar radiculopathy. The patient is

reported to only improve to 8/10 (at best) from 10/10 pain on his medications. As such, this is not a significant improvement (at least 30% is considered significant), even if fibromyalgia was the primary diagnosis. Therefore, the request for one prescription of Lyrica 75mg #60 is not medically necessary and appropriate.