

Case Number:	CM14-0100111		
Date Assigned:	10/09/2014	Date of Injury:	07/13/2005
Decision Date:	11/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/30/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 49-year-old male with a 7/13/05 date of injury. At the time (6/16/14) of request for authorization for Baclofen 20mg #30, there is documentation of subjective (chronic pain, pain radiation to shoulder and arms) and objective (neck crepitus on range of motion, weak grip strength) findings, current diagnoses (neck strain), and treatment to date (activity modification and medications (including ongoing use of Baclofen since at least 6/13)). There is no documentation of an acute exacerbation of chronic pain, that Baclofen is being used as a second line option, an intention for short-term treatment, 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 Baclofen use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Baclofen 20mg #30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 63-64.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines MUSCLE RELAXANTS (FOR PAIN) Page(s): 63-64. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Muscle relaxants (for pain) Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of acute exacerbation of chronic low back pain and used as a second line option for short-term treatment, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of muscle relaxant. 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 for short-term (less than two weeks) treatment. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnosis of neck strain. However, there is no documentation of an acute exacerbation of chronic pain and that Baclofen is being used as a second line option. In addition, given medical records reflecting prescription for Baclofen since at least 6/13, there is no documentation of an intention for short-term treatment. Furthermore, 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 Baclofen use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Baclofen 20mg #30 is not medically necessary.