

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0100198		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/30/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/29/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/29/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/28/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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 and has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 injured worker is a 49 year old male who complained of low back pain and lower extremities pain. The utilization review dated 05/28/14 resulted in denial for genetic testing as no information was submitted confirming presence of a genetic defect. A clinical note dated 05/12/14 indicated the injured worker rating the low back pain 8-10/10. The injured worker stated the pain was affecting his sleep hygiene. The injured worker utilized fentanyl, Norco, soma, Neurontin, Prozac, Topamax and Ambien. A clinical note dated 01/14/14 indicated the drug regimen providing some benefit. There appeared to be an unusual pallor at the right proximal calf.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**CYP2D6 Genetic testing.:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Online article: "Genetic Screening for Defects in Opioids Metabolism: Historical Characteristics and Blood Levels.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence:1.)"Genetic Testing: MedlinePlus". Nlm.nih.gov. Retrieved 2011-06-07. 2.)Frank H.

Wians, Jr., PhD, MT(ASCP), DABCC, FACB. Clinical Laboratory Tests: Which, Why, and What Do The Results Mean? (2009) LabMedicine, 40, 105-113.

**Decision rationale:** The request for genetic testing is non-certified. The injured worker complained of low back pain radiating to the lower extremities. Genetic testing is indicated for injured workers who have been determined to have a genetic defect. No information was submitted regarding preliminary testing indicating a possible genetic defect. Additionally, opioid therapy appeared to provide some benefit with reduction of pain. Given this, the request is not indicated as medically necessary.

**CYP2C19 Genetic Testing:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Online article: "Genetic Screening for Defects in Opioids Metabolism: Historical Characteristics and Blood Levels.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: 1.)"Genetic Testing: MedlinePlus". Nlm.nih.gov. Retrieved 2011-06-07.2.)Frank H. Wians, Jr., PhD, MT(ASCP), DABCC, FACB. Clinical Laboratory Tests: Which, Why, and What Do The Results Mean? (2009) LabMedicine, 40, 105-113.

**Decision rationale:** The request for genetic testing is not medically necessary. The injured worker complained of low back pain radiating to the lower extremities. Genetic testing is indicated for injured workers who have been determined to have a genetic defect. No information was submitted regarding preliminary testing indicating a possible genetic defect. Additionally, opioid therapy appeared to provide some benefit with reduction of pain. Given this, the request is not indicated as medically necessary.