

Case Number:	CM14-0103622		
Date Assigned:	07/30/2014	Date of Injury:	01/18/2012
Decision Date:	10/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/04/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 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 46-year-old male with a 1/18/12 date of injury. At the time (6/10/14) of the Decision for Etodolac 300 mg capsule Qty: 60 capsules Refills:2 and Norco 10mg/325mg tablet Qty: 30 Refills:2, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain which is stable with treatment, intermittent pinching pain in right hip without radiation of pain, pain described as dull and aching and rated 4-5/10) and objective (slowed gait) findings, current diagnoses (degeneration of lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc and displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy), and treatment to date (physical therapy and medications (including ongoing treatment with Etodolac and Norco)). Regarding Etodolac 300 mg capsule Qty: 60 capsules Refills: 2, 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 Etodolac use to date. Regarding Norco 10mg/325mg tablet Qty: 30 Refills:2, there is no documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects 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 Norco use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Etodolac 300 mg capsule Qty: 60 capsules Refills:2: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Non-Selective NSAIDs Page(s): 71.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), Page(s): 67-68. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of moderate to severe osteoarthritis pain, acute low back pain, chronic low back pain, or exacerbations of chronic pain, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of NSAIDs. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of degeneration of lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc and displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy. In addition, there is documentation of chronic low back pain. However, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Etodolac, 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 Etodolac use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Etodolac 300 mg capsule Qty: 60 capsules Refills:2 is not medically necessary.

Norco 10mg/325mg tablet Qty: 30 Refills:2: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids, criteria for use Page(s): 76-78, 78-80, 124. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Passik, 2000; California, 1994; Weaver, 2002

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 74-80. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines necessitate documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of opioids. 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. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of degeneration of lumbar or lumbosacral intervertebral disc and displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy. However, there is no documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Norco, 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 Norco use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Norco 10mg/325mg tablet Qty: 30 Refills:2 is not medically necessary.